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Suspect in fire that razed abandoned barracks arrested. PAGE 2
136 children underweight, overweight. PAGE 3

# New $2.4M troop store on Saipan

Sablan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

**» Defense to release Congress-approved funds in next few months**

The U.S. Department of Defense is expected to release in the next few months U.S. Congress-approved funds for the construction of a substantially bigger troop store than the existing facility on Saipan at a cost of $2.44 million, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) told lawmakers.

Sablan said construction could begin as early as this summer and be completed within a year.

Some veterans and government officials interviewed yesterday said they welcome the substantial troop store expansion.

The current Army and Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES, store is only 1,120 square feet and was built in 1987.

"That is good news. That would be

See TROOP on Page 4

## MPLT to House: Initiatives seeking to help Fund may do harm than good

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After testifying before a special House panel to review measures seeking to help the Retirement Fund, the Marianas Public Land Trust wrote two sepa-

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MLK DAY KEYNOTE SPEAKER SAYS

## 'Civil rights is four-beat march toward justice'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Dr. Amos C. Brown, a world-renowned civil rights advocate who was a student of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., underscored that the civil rights movement is a "four-beat" march towards justice that begins with acceptance of oneself, the first challenge of humankind.

Brown served as the keynote speaker in yesterday's commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day hosted by the African-American Cultural Preservation Committee on Saipan at the American Memorial Park. The event marked the 7th celebration of MLK Jr. Day in the CNMI.

The theme for this year's celebration is, "Be-

SeeCIVIL on Page 4

CLARISSA V. DAVID

**Photo left shows Dr. Amos C. Brown, a world-renowned civil rights advocate and student of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., right, is joined on stage by African-American Cultural Preservation Committee president Joe Hill and member Ambrose Bennett as they listen to the taped remarks of Georgia Congressman John Robert Lewis, who is also a leader in the American Civil Rights movement. Above photo shows the Kagman JROTC unit leading AACPC members and other community members marching along Beach Road from the American Memorial Park to Paseo de Marianas and back before the start of the program at the Visitors Center Theater.**

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**OPINION METER**

This week's poll:
Do you support legislation increasing by as much as 50 percent fines for speed violations?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

## INSIDE

**NATION**

A splintered conservative vote in South Carolina could pave the way for Mitt Romney to win this week's pivotal primary.

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**WORLD**

Maritime authorities, passengers and mounting evidence pointed Sunday toward the captain of a cruise liner that ran aground and capsized off the Tuscan coast.

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**LIFE & STYLE**

The black-and-white silent film "The Artist" led the Golden Globes with three wins Sunday at a show that spread Hollywood's love around among a broad range of films.

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# Local

## Suspect in fire that razed abandoned barracks arrested

Authorities arrested a man suspected of being behind the fire that occurred at an abandoned barracks located across Hopwood Junior High in Chalan Piao on Thursday night.

Witnesses told *Saipan Tribune* that police handcuffed the suspect, described as a Chuukese, as the fire was still raging on.

Investigators are also looking into the possibility that the arrested person was also behind the other fire which broke out that same night at an abandoned building at the defunct MGM Garment Factory.

It was not clear yet whether the suspect was still at the Department of Corrections as of yesterday. The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about the two incidents as well as five other fire cases over the weekend. No one was reported injured in those fires.

The fire broke out at 11pm Thursday at the former barracks of Mary's Bakery located behind Connie's Diner. The blaze razed the one-story abandoned barracks which were made of light materials.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Fire believed to be intentionally set off razed Thursday night this former barracks of the defunct Mary's Bakery located behind Monte Carlo Club in Chalan Piao.

The fire immediately spread and burned the sports bar section of Monte Carlo Club. Firefighters prevented the blaze from transferring to other parts of the club and to Connie's Diner.

Witnesses said prior to the fire, the suspect entered Monte Carlo, but did not order anything. After a few minutes he left and five to 10 minutes later came back.

The suspect went into the restroom. After about two minutes, employees of the club learned that there was a big fire at the former Mary's Bakery barracks located behind the club.

The suspect went out and was observed throwing rocks at the barracks that was already on fire.

After learning about the information about the man, officers arrested the suspect.

Two hours before that fire, another blaze razed an abandoned building of the former MGM Factory, which is only a few blocks away from Monte Carlo.

On Saturday night, a fire of unknown cause razed an abandoned building located beside Virtue Tailor Shop. The shop is also located a few blocks away from the former MGM.

Four other fires occurred that weekend—two houses in Chalan Kanoa, a classroom at Mt. Carmel School, and an abandoned tin house in Sugar Dock.

Last Nov. 17, three fires broke out in the same areas—San Antonio, Chalan Piao, and Chalan Kanoa.

Investigators suspected that two of those fires were intentionally set off. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

## Chamber urges small companies to become members

**By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan is urging small companies to become members of the business organization that he said has continued to provide "collective representation with the CNMI government," workshops, seminars, and the chance to participate in the re-establishment of benefits from reduced rate of health care premiums later this year, among other things.

Brennan said yesterday that while older, established companies like DFS Galleria, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, IT&E, Docomo Pacific Saipan, Coca-Cola Company, Tan Holdings, Joeten Enterprises, and many other companies that "support the Chamber's mission, fair trade practices and just doing the right thing in the community" will always be within its membership, "it's the smaller companies that really make up the backbone of the Chamber."

He said smaller company participation is crucial to funding the work the Chamber does on behalf of the entire business community.

"It's just not perfect when the same, older, and established companies foot the bill for the Chamber's recognized work on behalf of all business," Brennan said in a statement yesterday.

Some representatives of small businesses said yesterday they either don't have the time to attend Chamber meetings and activities, or have difficulty paying membership dues at a time when they barely make money.

But the Chamber said a central benefit of Chamber membership "is the voice that dues buy, a voice that is dedicated to overcoming impediments to the conduct of commerce in the CNMI."

Moreover, the Chamber said it conducted the CNMI's first prevailing wage survey and its summary reports are now being used by all businesses.

Commercial membership dues range from $250 to $2,500 a year, depending on the company's gross revenue.

Non-commercial memberships, including associate membership, non-profit, and government, is $250 a year. Honorary members don't have to pay dues.

The Chamber said it continues to speak collectively with the Legislature and the Office of the Governor and took a solid position and educated all businesses on the recent federal mandates on wages and immigration authority.

It has also taken positions on Article XII or the land alienation provision of the NMI Constitution, taxation issues and the Retirement Fund.

Brennan, who will take the oath of office for an unprecedented third straight year on Jan. 21, restated the Chamber's mission during what has been argued as the economy's toughest challenges ever in the CNMI.

He said that original mission brought forward by early businessmen like Jose Tenorio (Joeten) and Manny Villagomez was a simple one: to develop and expand the business community on Saipan and have businesses contribute to community improvement projects.

Brennan, general manager of Microl Corp., said some of the Chamber founders including David M. Sablan and Juan "Pan" Guerrero still believe that although economic indicators are looking down these days compared to those early formative years, the solution to today's economic downturn is still the same original Chamber mission.

"Cooperation between industry and the public and private sectors is even more vital today to a healthy economy. The Commonwealth government continues to actively seek dialogue and advice from the business community, giving the Chamber an important voice in policy making," he said.

The Chamber, still the largest single private business organization in the CNMI with 151 members, marks its 53rd year on Saipan, having been founded in 1959 and officially incorporated in 1976.

Brennan also said the Chamber is dedicated to the growth of the Saipan community through interaction with fellow members, the surrounding islands and the diverse international business community.

"We know most business people are just too busy attending to their own companies, so we work on their behalf. We work hand in hand to promote business interests. Most importantly, we know the answer lies in our membership," he added.

### Membership drive

The Chamber said it is critical to bring in new members.

Work has begun to get other organizations involved, including the Chinese Association, the Korean Association, and other similar groups.

"Other smaller companies need to step up and take their turn…Chamber membership enables individuals to accomplish work collectively that might be prohibitive or impossible on an individual approach. The Chamber involves itself in the economic issues affecting the community, including active participation in education, labor, legal, environmental, small business, human relations, cultural, and other business and philanthropic concerns," said Brennan.

Besides having a collective voice and access to workshops and seminars that help improve business operations, Chamber members can also choose from the Education, Events, Armed Forces, Small Business, Membership and Government Relations and Economic Development Committees to make their community contributions.

The Chamber said it provides access to the Chamber's member network via fax, newsletter and electronically, as well as the resources of the Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, under the Chamber's membership in these organizations.

Membership with the Chamber office will also allow companies to participate in the re-establishment of benefits from reduced rate health care premiums later this year, it said.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce can be reached at 233-7150/7152, or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com for membership inquiries.

Tourism Tuesday

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
*Tourism is everybody's business.*

**MVA Ad Campaign in Busan**

In support of direct flights from Busan to the Northern Marianas Islands (NMI), the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) recently partnered with four travel agents to conduct a Marianas Tour Package ad campaign in the major Korean city.

The campaign, translated as "Let's go to Saipan via Direct Flights from Busan with Asiana Airlines and Delta Air Lines" served to promote the NMI as an ideal vacation destination. The campaign included 12 ads in daily newspapers, 45 days of television ads on major network MBC in Youngnam and subway displays through Busan. Standing banners and leaflets have also been produced.

The ad campaign expenses are being shared equally by the MVA and the four participating travel agents: Hana Tour, Mode Tour, Very Good Tour, and MBC Tour.

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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

HEALTH ASSESSMENT FOR HEAD START REVEALS:

# 136 children underweight, overweight

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Over a hundred students at Public School System's Head Start program are either overweight or underweight, according to program director Melissa Palacios.

She said a recent height and weight assessment conducted among children revealed that 136 children currently enrolled at the Head Start program are affected by this health concern.

She described the figure as significant based on the program's 462 mandated enrollees this school year.

"We found 136 children in our program who are either underweight or overweight based on the results of the height and weight assessment. So we're now looking at every single classroom to identify who amongst these 136 kids are overweight and underweight so we can start working with them and their families," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune.*

For the affected children, Palacios vowed to contact and communicate with their parents to inquire what's happening in their homes.

Factors that caused the children to become overweight and underweight, she said, must be identified accordingly so a plan could be set up for immediate resolution.

She said children are provided free meals at the center, all of which are in accordance with the Food and Nutrition Services' guidelines to ensure what they consume are nutritious and healthy.

"But beyond the school hours, we don't know what's happening in their homes. Now that we have these data, our goal is to effectively communicate with the parents and work with them. The program can only do so much for our children, so we need the parental involvement," she said.

According to Palacios, one of the program's key partners—NMC CREES program—has conducted an informal survey among stores and teachers to identify the most saleable items to children. The result, she said, indicated that chips and other junked foods top the most saleable goods to children all over the islands.

The program director believes that with 136 children considered overweight and underweight, the figure is "a major concern" and alarming.

Overweight, she specifically cited, may lead to more pressing health issues in the long term such as obesity and risks associated with it.

"It is a concern for us because we all know that obesity is a major problem among older people and adults. Now we're seeing it in our children. We need to do something and we will start with their parents to find out what these children are consuming at home," she said.

The program director vows to bring progress to the affected children before they transition to kindergarten.

"Our goal is to make sure by the end of the school year, at least our kids leave our program based on the appropriate growth development range [for their age]," she said.

Palacios said the latest data will be shared and tackled among parents and enrollees in the scheduled annual health symposium for Saipan set on Jan. 21.

The same topic was also among the discussions in the recent symposium on Tinian and later, at the Rota health assembly.

The CNMI Head Start is a federally funded program under the Department of Health and Human Services which provides developmental services for low-income children ages 3 to 5 and social services for their families.

# US govt not opposed to exclude evidence of defendant's four prior criminal convictions

The U.S. government does not oppose a motion to exclude evidence of prior criminal convictions of Melvin David Diaz, a 49-year-old Guam resident who is facing charges for impregnating a minor girl on Rota.

Assistant U.S. attorney Clyde Lemons Jr. said the prosecution does not object to Diaz's motion and does not intend to introduce at trial defendant's prior convictions.

Lemons informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Wednesday that a provision of Federal Rules of Evidence permits a conviction to be introduced against any witness regardless of whether it is a misdemeanor or felony, only if the offense involves a crime of dishonesty.

Lemon said none of Diaz's prior convictions involve such an offense.

Lemons said another provisions of the Federal Rules of Evidence permit evidence of similar cases in sexual assault cases and in child molestation cases.

None of the defendant's convictions, the prosecutor said, involve such offenses.

Diaz, through counsel, asserted that his prior four convictions should not be admitted for impeachment either as two convictions are time barred, and the other are for misdemeanors.

The district court last month set the jury trial of Diaz to Feb. 6, 2012 in order for the U.S. government's expert to recover from an unexpected illness.

The jury trial was originally set for Dec. 27, 2011.

Diaz is charged with three counts of enticement of a minor and one count of travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

According to the indictment, between Aug. 1, 2010 and Sept. 30, 2010, Diaz traveled from Guam to the CNMI for the purpose of engaging in illicit sex with the minor. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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## MPLT

*From Page 1*

rate formal position papers urging the House to give serious considerations to two Senate initiatives which they say "may do harm than good" and would make land lease interest income funds unavailable for other important programs and needs, among other things.

MPLT chair Alvaro A. Santos, in two letters to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), listed its specific concerns on Senate President Paul Manglona's (Ind-Rota) Senate Legislative Initiatives 17-13 SS1 SD1 and 17-14 SD1.

"In the Trustees' view, the better policy and fiscal choice is to disallow consideration of SLI 17-13 by the voters as it is not in the best interest of the CNMI," Santos told the House speaker.

For SLI 17-14, Santos said while MPLT trustees respect and understand that this is a policy decision of the Legislature, MPLT "experience counsels against such an approach of tying up the interest income for such an extended and unknown term."

Santos said if allowed, SLI 17-14 will committee the interest income funds of $2 million every year to service a $300 million—tying up the funds from future appropriations.

"Clearly the interest income is far short of what is required to satisfy the unfunded liability. This begs the question of when, if ever, the interest income funds will be available again for appropriation for important programs and needs of the Commonwealth," he added.

Both Jan. 11 and 12 letters caution the House against the negative impacts that the two initiatives would have not only on MPLT but the general fund and the whole CNMI as well, although it recognized that it would be a "policy decision" on the part of the Legislature.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), chair of the House Special Committee on Retirement Fund, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the panel "will certainly include" in its discussion the recommendations of MPLT with regards to SLI 17-13 and SLI 17-14 during their next meeting.

SLI 17-13 allows the Department of Public Lands to retain fee simple title over four CNMI golf course properties, but directs that the income and any leases of these golf courses be authorized and directed to the Fund.

MPLT remits interest income from investment of net land lease proceeds from DPL to the Legislature for appropriation.

In December 2011, for example, MPLT remitted some $2 million to the general fund pursuant to Article XI Section 6(d) of the Constitution.

But none of this money was appropriated toward the Fund to pay the unfunded liability or employer contributions due but were instead used for other programs, MPLT's Santos said.

"In MPLT's view, reducing the land lease funds to MPLT for investment would result in a drastic and dramatic reduction in potential interest income distribution to the general fund," MPLT's Santos told Cabrera.

The total current aggregate income from these golf course leases are less than $300,000 a year. If one deducts 30 percent for DPL operations, the net payment to the Fund would be $210,000 at the most.

Coral Ocean Point and Lao Lao Bay leases, for example, are only about $100,000 each a year.

Alvaro Santos said this can be compared to the $2 million that MPLT would be able to remit and perhaps a greater sum with the continued provisions of the Constitution in effect.

The MPLT chair said unfortunately, if approved, SLI 17-13 actually results in less potential funds to the Fund when compared to the interest income MPLT could generate for appropriation.

"In the Trustees' view, the better policy and fiscal choice is to disallow consideration of SLI 17-13 by the voters as it is not in the best interest of the CNMI," MPLT's Santos told the House speaker.

MPLT also said that while SLI 17-13 allows 30 percent to be set aside for DPL operations cost, there is no restriction for the Fund from using the funds for its operational needs.

The Fund pays out some $71 million annually in benefits. MPLT said the Fund is using the pension corpus and thus continues to be depleted. It said the Fund would clearly use, as it does now, all funds to continue to pay out retirement pension since there is no other source.

"This begs the question of how $210,000 per annum can possibly satisfy the pension benefits due of approximately $71 million. Clearly the numbers do not suffice to remedy this dire situation," MPLT's Santos said.

SLI 17-13 says once the employer contributions and all unfunded liabilities are paid, then the money received by the Fund shall be repaid by the central government to MPLT.

Santos said this provision is both "unrealistic and unreasonable" in its scope and expectation.

"If the central government cannot pay the NMI Retirement Fund the current employer contribution amount of $300 million and unfunded liability of $700 million, then surely MPLT could not expect to be repaid millions of dollars in that same respect," Santos said.

He added that MPLT trustees submit that their experience suggest that SLI 17-13 as proposed "does not help the NMI Retirement Fund but may do harm than good."

SLI 17-14, meanwhile, directs that MPLT remit the interest income from its investments to the Fund. The proposed amendment would apply beginning the fiscal year after the loan to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is paid in full pursuant to Public Law 17-7.

Santos pointed out three major concerns on the initiative, including the fact that any and all of the estimated $2 million a year to be remitted to the Fund as proposed would allow the Fund to use such interest income from MPLT for staff, administrative and operational needs.

Second, a quarterly distribution results in a net overall lost of interest income. MPLT suggests that the process remain where the interest income would be remitted at the end of the fiscal year.

Third, MPLT is concerned with the scenario where the Fund pension plan collapses and the constitutional provision, if amended, would remain.

"This result is that MPLT would not be able to maintain those interest income received for further investment and would be held in an account until resolved. This does not result in more income for distribution—it will cause less income for distribution," Santos added.

## CIVIL

*From Page 1*

ing Drum Majors for Justice: Keeping Up the Beat in the Marianas."

Yesterday's event began with an orientation at the parking lot, followed by a march attended by members of AACPC, students, and other community members from the American Memorial Park to Guess store by Paseo de Marianas and back.

The marchers then proceeded to the Visitors Center Theater where the program was held. Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal and Savannah Delos Santos served as emcees, with Pastor Manuel Cabaluna offering invocation and Dr. Peter Eche for the welcoming remarks. AACPC president Joe Hill introduced the keynote speaker.

A taped video of Congressman John Robert Lewis of Georgia was also played at the event. Lewis described King as "my colleague in my struggle for civil rights" and his civil rights dream is "a dream deeply rooted in the American dream."

Brown, in his remarks, noted that most of the problems in the world "were done by folks who haven't accepted themselves," thus the need for self-acceptance and not self-denial. For example, Brown said, Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler "couldn't accept himself as an artist who failed" and made millions of Jews his "scapegoat" and led them to their deaths.

"If we could get more people to accept themselves and stop hurting other people because they are hurting, what a better world it would be," Brown told his audience.

The Baptist pastor added, "In this life, if we could see God is a God of justice, a God of love, and when God made you and me, there is no mistake to be seen in God."

Brown said King accepted himself and accepted the fact that he was a black Baptist preacher and went around "trying to be nobody else" but himself and stood for justice, peace, and righteousness.

The second beat, Brown said, is "respect" for oneself and others. According to Brown, nobody has the monopoly for truth, wisdom, and love but everybody has a bit of God's infinite divine power.

"There is one integrating thread in all scriptures… At the end of the day, there is the golden rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. That's the thing that matters that's found in all religions," he said.

People also need to march to the beat of critical thinking, said Brown, who disclosed that Americans are "way down" in terms of achievement academically. A recent CNN documentary revealed that America is at the top when it comes to militarism and consumption but is only ranked 17th in science, mathematics, and geography.

"We have got to get back to open up the American minds," warned Brown, who added that those who think critically like King are the only ones who can use their knowledge to help others instead of harming them.

The final beat, said Brown, is the beat of creative conquest. "Regardless to what happens, regardless to what goes down, we know how to conquer, even our enemy, with love."

Brown urged his audience to "plant a garden" instead, like what former South African President Nelson Mandela did to his oppressors when he was detained in prison in Robben Island for his anti-apartheid activism. He said that experience made Mandela "better" and not "bitter."

Brown pointed out that King, whom he described as "our best friend on the issue of race, opportunity, and inclusion," did not fight back negatively or fight fire with fire but with love.

"Let us plant three rows of peace: peace of mind, peace of heart, peace of soul. Let us have four rows of squash: let us squash gossip, squash bigotry, squash greed, squash indifference. Let us plant five rows of lettuce: let us be thoughtful, let us be kind, let us be patient, let us be loving, let us be helpful. Let us plant four rows of turnips: let us turn up for meetings, turn up for service, turn up at the polls this coming November and turn up the extremes aside and put people in government who will do justly, love with mercy and walk humbly with God. Let us turn up for the day will come when we will feel good about America and all of us will be able to say, I am black and I'm proud; I'm brown and I'm sound; I'm yellow and I'm mellow; I'm white and I'm alright. Let us be there, let us do the right thing, and march to a different drum," he concluded.

## TROOP

*From Page 1*

very advantageous for us and family who go there to buy goods. That will give more variety of goods because right now they have limited items and limited variety. And as you know, the goods available there are sold at much lower prices because they're not taxed, and that is also helping a lot of the members and their families," retired U.S. Army sergeant major Jesus C. Muna told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Muna, now director of the Division of Customs Service, entered the U.S. Army in July 1967 and was stationed in Vietnam in 1968. He also saw action in Iraq in Operation Desert Storm in 1990-1991. He retired in July 1992.

Muna is just one of the approximately 3,400 Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard personnel, service veterans and family members in the CNMI who depend upon the AAFES troop store for consumer goods.

"These men and women have made substantial sacrifice for their country and they deserve our continuing support," Sablan said in a Jan. 11 letter to Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan).

Torres, in a separate interview yesterday, said the troop store's expansion is just one of the ways to show those who served and are serving that "we take care of their needs."

He and Palacios separately met with Sablan on the troop store expansion, as well as on other issues.

"The construction of a bigger facility will also help the economy because it will create jobs and will contribute to business gross revenue tax. I welcome it. Most of all, it provided incentives especially to young ones who are in the Reserve or now serving or are planning to serve," he said.

Torres thanked Sablan for his efforts in making this project a reality. The senator also said he will continue to ask the delegate to support the establishment of at least a Veterans Affairs clinic—if not a hospital—in the CNMI.

Palacios, a veteran himself, said last night that he has been pushing for the expansion of the troop store since 2008.

"I'm glad that Kilili was able to continue pushing for it. It would be three times bigger but I was hoping it could be a lot bigger," he said.

Palacios, a freshman lawmaker, entered the U.S. Army in December 1976 and retired in July 2006 as a sergeant first class.

### Feasibility study

Sablan has been working on the improvement and expansion of the existing AAFES troop store on Saipan for some time now, and those eligible to buy from the troop store will soon see the results.

In early 2010, as part of the congressional process for putting together the annual National Defense Authorization Act, Sablan requested that a formal study be authorized in the law to ascertain the economic feasibility of expanding the Saipan troop store.

"I had heard from many of those who are eligible to use the facility that they were not satisfied with the quality, selection and availability of merchandise, and that prices are substantially higher than at AAFES stores in other areas. I understood, however, that there would need to be a formal study in order to take concrete action on these complaints," Sablan told lawmakers.

The U.S. House Armed Services Committee honored Sablan's request and authorized the study in the 2011 NDAA, which President Barack Obama signed as Public Law 111-383 on Jan. 8, 2011.

The Department of Defense reported back to Congress in August 2011, and agreed there was a need to improve the AAFES services in the CNMI, and that it would be economically feasible to do so.

"The Department proposed construction of a new 5,000 square-foot troop store at a cost of $2.44 million. The existing facility in Puerto Rico, which was constructed in 1987, is only 1,120 square feet in area. So the proposed store was to be a substantial expansion," Sablan told Torres and Palacios.

In late 2011, the U.S. House and Senate Armed Services Committees authorized the construction based on the study recommendation.

"Funds, which Congress has already made available for AAFES projects, are scheduled to be released by the Secretary of Defense in the next few months, at which point AAFES will solicit bids. I understand that construction could begin as early as this summer and be completed within a year," Sablan added.

### Gasoline program

But while the feasibility study recommended expansion of the troop store, it did not recommend the installation of gas pumps at the Puerto Rico facility on Saipan.

Sablan said the feasibility study considered installation of gas pumps on Saipan but the high construction cost, pricing regulations and relatively small size of the eligible customer base led to the conclusion that the sale of gasoline would have a negative rate of return and was not economically viable at this time.

ACCORDING TO VIETNAM-BASED LAWYER:

# Ruling backs position NMI not proper venue of Hillbroom's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Vietnam-based lawyer Barry Israel has cited U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's recent ruling over a jurisdiction issue that, according to him, supports his claim that the CNMI is not the proper venue of Junior Larry Hillbroom's lawsuit against him.

Israel is among the lawyers who represented Hillbroom in a probate case. Hillbroom is the reported DNA-proven son of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom.

Israel, through counsel Theodore W. Frank, pointed to the Dec. 27, 2011 order issued by Manglona in the civil case filed by Sin Ho Nam against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and landowner Joaquin Q. Atalig.

In that order, Manglona denied for lack of jurisdiction Nam's motion to enforce his lawsuit's settlement agreement with Quichocho and Atalig.

Manglona said a court has jurisdiction to enforce a settlement agreement only if it expressly retained such jurisdiction or otherwise embodied the settlement contract in the dismissal order.

The judge pointed out that the stipulated "order dismissing case" is silent on jurisdiction and does not mention the settlement agreement.

Frank said as Manglona's order expressed, there can be no continuing jurisdiction over a settlement if not expressed in the court's order of dismissal.

Manglona's order assists the analysis of the venue challenge asserted in Israel's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, said Frank in Israel's supplemental brief filed on Thursday in district court to support his motion.

Manglona

"As the order makes clear with its cited authorities, jurisdiction over a settlement post dismissal is not retained by a court without such an expression in the order of dismissal," Frank said.

Frank said the Superior Court's orders approving the global settlement and closing the Hillblom probate case are silent on the issue of jurisdiction over any aspect of the case subsequent to its closure.

The lawyer said Hillbroom's complaint seeks redress for Israel's and co-defendant's obtaining attorneys' fees in excess of the alleged cap by the Hillblom probate court.

By this action instituted in the CNMI, Frank said, Hillbroom is seeking to invoke the inherent or ancillary jurisdiction of the district court.

"Yet, federal courts do not have inherent or ancillary jurisdiction to enforce a settlement agreement simply because the subject of that settlement was a prior lawsuit in a state court located in the same district," Frank asserted.

When the initial action is dismissed, the lawyer stressed, jurisdiction terminates.

Frank said the estate closure orders mention nothing about capping attorneys' fees, and when the case was closed, the Hillblom Probate Court's jurisdiction terminated forever.

Frank said the CNMI courts have now three times confirmed that the case closed with the issuance of the estate closure orders in April and May 2000.

Hillbroom is suing Israel in federal court for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorney's contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings.

Hillbroom, who is now based in Idaho, is also suing Guam lawyer David J. Lujan and 10 other unnamed co-defendants in district court for legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, fraud, racketeering activity, civil conspiracy, and violations of California Business and Professions Code.

Lujan and Israel served as counsels for Hillbroom during Hillblom's probate in the Superior Court.

In a motion to dismiss, Lujan and Israel have accused Hillbroom of colluding with another person to extort monies from them.

# New York-based musician to hold free concerts on Saipan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A youth pastor and musician from New York is on island to stage a two-night free concert for the community which is slated for tonight and tomorrow in two separate venues.

Organized and sponsored by the Grace Christian Academy, school vice principal Beth Nunez said Pastor Justin Adour's concerts are aimed at bringing encouragement to the people of Saipan and to remind them of "God's amazing love for them."

Through the event, she added, people will also enjoy some great Christian music in a style that they may not have been familiar with before.

Adour's first concert will be at 6pm tonight at the Kagman Community Center. His second will be tomorrow night, Jan. 18, at the San Antonio Basketball Court also beginning 6pm.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Adour is a youth pastor from New York and is the vice principal's nephew. Through her invitation, the concert was finalized.

"He has heard me talk about Saipan for many years and is now so excited to be able to visit this beautiful island and the people of Saipan!" Nunez said yesterday on how the event was conceptualized.

Nunez said this is the first time that the pastor-musician will be playing his music on Saipan. Audiences, she said, can expect great Christian music and words of encouragement during the two concerts.

**EARN UP TO 3 CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CPE) CREDITS**

**GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING UPDATES BY LEALAN (LEE) MILLER, CPA PARTNER, EIDE BAILLY LLP**

**SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS, CNMI CHAPTER**

When: Thursday, January 19, 2012

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Registration begins at 8:30am

Location: Giovanni, Hyatt Regency Saipan

Seminar Fee: $60 Per Person, Buffet lunch is included

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, January 18, 2012

To register or for more information, please contact Glenda P. Cabrera at 322-7337 ext. 237 or via email at glendacabrera@deloitte.com

**BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**
**ELECTRIC DIVISION** — **DOCKET 09-1**
**WATER AND WASTEWATER DIVISIONS** — **DOCKET 12-01**

**AMENDED: CHANGE OF DATE/TIME: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**ATTENTION: THIS NOTICE AMENDS THE PRIOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME FOR THIS COMMISSION HEARING.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that at **9:00 a.m. on January 25, 2012**, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission *[Commission]* will conduct a public hearing at the Retirement Fund Building Conference Room, Capitol Hill to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the following regulatory matters concerning the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation *[CUC]*. **The Hearing shall convene at 9 am through 2:30 pm. The Commission will recess at that time. The Hearing shall continue on the next day, January 26, 2012 at 9 am, if necessary, until completed.**

**1. CUC Electric Division [Docket 09-1].**

The Commission will examine CUC's December 8, 2011 petition for base rate relief, which requests that effective on or about February 20, 2012 its electric base rate revenues [which do not include fuel revenue, as discussed below] be increased on an annualized basis by about $7.9 million, which would increase the average residential ratepayer's monthly electric bill by about $6.87. CUC proposes that the additional revenue to be produced by this rate increase be allocated to its three customer classes *[residential, commercial and government]* in the manner set forth in its public notice, as published in the Saipan Tribune and Marianas Variety on December 21, 2011. CUC asserts that this increased base revenue is just, reasonable and necessary to enable it to address: a] the statutory mandate that it bill and collect adequate rate revenue to recover the costs associated with the operation and delivery of electric service, including financial reserves; b] the requirements of the Federal Stipulated Order dated March 11, 2009, in *USA v. CUC and CNMI;* c] declining revenues resulting from decreased loads; and d]additional revenue requirements imposed by Retirement Fund assessments; CDA payments and Telesource Change Order No. 5.

The Commission will also consider at the hearing the following requests by the Electric Division for regulatory action: a] amendment of the levelized energy adjustment clause [LEAC] tariff, as established by Commission order dated December 19, 2008, in order to transition to a monthly rate and to authorize the establishment of separate LEAC rates for each customer class; b] establishment of a new LEAC rate to be effective January 27, 2012 of $0.29579 per kWh; c] reconciliation of all prior LEAC assessments through September 30, 2011; d] establishment of a new street lighting tariff with the following monthly rates: long arm $11.67; short arm $8.33; and LED $10.83, which should apply to all public and private security lighting customers; e] approval of the Independence Bank loan; f] establishment of a new net metering tariff; g] establishment of a new municipal pumping station customer class; h] approval of a memorandum of understanding between CUC and the CNMI government regarding the payment of outstanding utility bills; i] approval of a security services contract; j] amendment of the contract review protocol, as established by Commission order dated December 19, 2008; and k] further suspension of CUC's duty to comply with statutory renewable energy portfolio standards under 4 CMC §8624(b).

**2. CUC Water and Wastewater Divisions [Docket 12-01].**

The Commission will also examine CUC's October 10, 2011 petition to increase its water and wastewater rates, effective on or about February 20, 2012. CUC proposes an increase to its unmetered water fixed charge and to its wastewater monthly service fee and volumetric charges, in amounts set forth in its December 21, 2011 public notice. In addition, CUC proposes that new water and wastewater energy charges be established, which would enable these divisions to pass through to customers the actual cost of their electricity expense. CUC estimates that the initial water energy charge would be $2.11 per 1,000 gallons and that the initial wastewater energy charge would be $2.68 per 1,000 gallons. The aggregate impact of these proposed increases on the average monthly residential water bill would be about $6.73 and about $34.11 on the average monthly residential wastewater bill. CUC asserts these proposed water and wastewater rate increases are just, reasonable and necessary.

The Commission will also consider at the hearing the following additional requests by the Divisions for regulatory action: a] the establishment of three new water and wastewater customer classes: multi-family customers; municipal pumping customers; and public school system; b] a new $50 sewer dumping charge; c] a new $50 wastewater inspection/testing charge; d] the November 8, 2011 petition of Senator Juan Ayuyu for establishment of a $0.25 per thousand gallon agricultural water usage rate for commercial farmers and ranchers in areas where there is 24 hour water available and a flat $25 monthly rate in areas where 24 hour water service is not available; and e] several amendments to its service rules and regulations, as discussed in CUC's December 21, 2011 public notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION** regarding these rate petitions and requests for regulatory action, the public is referred to: a] CUC's December 21, 2011 notice, as published in the Marianas Variety and in the Saipan Tribune; and b] the testimony and documentary evidence, which is available for public review at CUC's administrative office on the 3rd floor, Joeten Dandan Building and at its Tinian and Rota offices. The Commission has tasked its independent regulatory consultant *[Georgetown]* to investigate and comment on the above CUC requests. As a result this review and in furtherance a prehearing conference between CUC and Georgetown, they will present by stipulation, at the **January 25, 2012** public hearing, joint recommendations for Commission action on the above CUC requests. This stipulation will be available for public inspection on and after January 19, 2012 at the offices of Georgetown's legal counsel, Mr. Robert Torres, Esq. Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Saipan – phone number 670-234-7859 and will also be available at the public hearing.

**THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE** at its January 21, 2012 public hearing and will welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before January 17, 2012 file with the Commission at the offices of Mr. Robert Torres, Esq. *[see above contact information]* an application and offer of proof in accordance with 4 CMC §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will schedule, notice and conduct a special business meeting to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from the office of Mr. Robert Torres, Esq.

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.** Plaintiff, -v- **CARMEN D. TUDELA, and PATRICIO F. TUDELA** Defendant. | **CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0151** **NOTICE OF SALE** |

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on December 20, 2011, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants Carmen D. Tudela and Patricio F. Tudela in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

**LOT 010 K 305,** as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded on August 19, 1987, as Document No. 87-2910 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on February 7, 2011, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 10th day of January, 2012.

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

### AS MONTHLY CUC BILLS REACH $400K

# PSS to look into each schools' power consumption

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System will be looking closely on each schools' power consumption after its conservation efforts failed to drastically reduce its monthly utility bills, according to Public School System finance director Richard Waldo.

Waldo told the Board of Education during its meeting last week that PSS' billings for October and November 2011 was $400,000—an amount significantly higher than what was expected and recorded in previous months.

"It shows that for October and November [billings], we still stay in $400,000. So we are investigating every single one [school] because if we stick to $400K, that would translate to $4.8 million for the entire fiscal year," Waldo told the board.

He is also hopeful that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will consider lowering the existing water rate during its next meeting.

PSS, under the budget allocation for fiscal year 2012, was provided only $30 million of which $28 million will be utilized in paying for personnel salary while $2 million was earmarked for operation and all others and this include utilities.

According to Waldo, PSS is making monthly payments of approximately $100,000 to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. This, according to the director, is in addition to the $50,000 weekly payment being made by the executive branch as part of the $1.7 million memorandum of agreement with PSS.

"We are making payments of $100,000 a month and also the lieutenant governor is paying the $1.7 million [MOA] and he's paying approximately $50K a week," reported Waldo, who refused to elaborate his reports or make comments when asked for clarification by *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that PSS incurred a $3 million debt to CUC representing unpaid bills for several months.

This obligation was as of September 2011 and which $1.7 million, absorbed by the central government in acknowledging that it failed to remit the PSS budget allotments in fiscal year 2011. The rest of the amount is to be paid by PSS, which is now expecting a lower obligation as a result of its monthly payment after September.

PSS said the central government owes the system over $3 million which represent the unpaid personnel allotments for last fiscal year 2011. This is categorized as "roll-over" funds that could help PSS in its financial needs this fiscal year 2012.

# Wiseman hears motion to dismiss legal's malpractice lawsuit

## »Lawsuit filed against three lawyers, one law firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman heard last week a motion filed by three lawyers and a law firm to dismiss a legal malpractice lawsuit filed against them by the parents and family members of the late teen beauty titlist Vinae Teofilia Deleon Guerrero.

After listening to the arguments by counsels on Thursday, Wiseman placed the motion under advisement.

Attorneys Robert O'Connor and Robert T. Torres argued for their clients—attorneys Joseph J. Iacopino, Gil Birnbrich, Colin T. Thompson, and Thompson's law firm.

Attorney Robert H. Myers appeared for plaintiff Chazrae S. Deleon Guerrero.

Wiseman

The legal malpractice lawsuit was filed by Vicente M. Deleon Guerrero, Nadine S. Deleon Guerrero, and Chazrae S. Deleon Guerrero, against their former counsels—Iacopino, Birnbrich, Thompson, and Thompson's law firm.

The Deleon Guerreros, through counsels Ramon K. Quichocho and Robert H. Myers, sued the defendants for breach of fiduciary duty, and breach of loyalty, among other claims.

Nadine and Vicente Deleon Guerrero are the parents of Vinae Deleon Guerrero, who died in May 2007 during a vehicular accident in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Chazrae Deleon Guerrero is the sister of Vinae.

Vinae Deleon Guerrero was driving a car and had entered Middle Road when a flatbed truck (boom truck) heading north broadsided her car.

Iacopino and Thompson served as counsels for the Deleon Guerreros and other family members in their wrongful death lawsuit against the boom truck's driver, Rabiul Islam, Pacific Drilling Ltd., Mid-Pac Micronesia, Bisnes Mami Inc., and other unnamed co-defendants.

Birnbrich used to work at Thompson's law firm.

The lawsuit ended up in a settlement. The settlement, however, prompted the Deleon Guerreros to sue their former lawyers.

During Thursday's hearing on the motion, O'Connor, counsel for Iacopino, said the problem with this lawsuit is there are no factual allegations that could justify a claim for punitive damages.

O'Connor argued that the complaint does not comply with the elements of causation and damages, which are essential to a legal malpractice lawsuit.

O'Connor said the plaintiffs filed the legal malpractice lawsuit because they just wished they got more money from the settlement.

In Iacopino's legal pleadings, O'Connor said the complaint "contains a long series of purported factual allegations, but glaringly absent is any factual allegation as to how any plaintiff actually sustained any actual damages as a result of any negligent or wrongful act of Mr. Iacopino, or any allegation supporting the conclusion that he acted out of evil motive or reckless indifference to their rights."

Torres, counsel for Thompson, his law firm, and Birnbrich, agreed with O'Connor the lawsuit should be dismissed because plaintiffs simply fail to allege facts backing up any of their claims.

"If it's not in the complaint then we don't consider it," Torres said.

In the pleadings, Torres said Iacopino, an active member of the CNMI Bar who resides in the State of California, spoke to Thompson in 2008 about the possibility of assisting as local counsel in the wrongful death lawsuit.

Torres said Thompson filed the Deleon Guerreros' lawsuit on June 11, 2008.

The case progressed through the litigation process.

However, Torres pointed out, Thompson was not actively involved in the case and Iacopino did little to communicate with Thompson regarding the status of the case despite Thompson's efforts.

Torres said on June 15-16, 2009, Iacopino informed his client and his local counsel that the case had settled.

"Iacopino eventually turned the settlement monies over to the clients minus amounts for charges and loans that Defendants Thompson, Birnbrich, and Thompson Law Office had no part of," Torres said.

Torres said there are no facts even remotely implicating Thompson, his law firm, and Birnbrich in whatever grievances plaintiffs may have against their principal off-island counsel Iacopino.

Myers appeared for the plaintiffs, but he did not make oral arguments.

In opposition to the motion, Myers said the plaintiffs have alleged sufficient facts upon which to state their claims and should be permitted to prove those facts.

In his legal pleadings, Quichocho said after settlement, Iacopino sent an email to Vicente Deleon Guerrero stating that Iacopino will repay himself the loans, estimated at $16,000 to $20,000, out of the settlement proceeds, but under the guise of a "reimbursement for costs advanced."

Quichocho said Iacopino distributed the settlement proceeds without court approval or without the three clients' informed consent.

"Mr. Iacopino then holds on to Chazrae's money for approximately four months and tells her parents that none of them can have it due to some prohibition," Quichocho said.

Clearly, Quichocho said, the allegations in the complaint justify punitive damages.

**Commonwealth Zoning Board**
**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Zoning Administrative Assistant**

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrative Assistant. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Duties and Responsibilities:** Receive and screen phone calls and visitors; Type, deliver, and mail correspondences; Schedule office appointments and meetings; Provide applicants with application materials and contacts applicants to submit additional information, as required; Receive and record incoming mail, permit applications and related documents; Secure office supplies, materials, and equipment and maintains an inventory; Prepare and follow-up on purchase requisitions/orders and travel authorizations; Enter data from zoning permit files into the zoning database; Track the status of zoning expenses using spreadsheets and/or the JD Edwards accounting system; Maintain permit, project, financial, and personnel records; Assist in formulating and implementing office standards and procedures; Perform other administrative duties, as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**
High School Graduate; 2 years of progressive experience in administrative work.

**Other:**
Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook Explorer. Familiarity with JD Edwards system. Good communication and people skills. Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Valid CNMI Driver's License

The salary is $20,000.00. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to the Acting Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp or by Hand Delivery to Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

**The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 4:00pm.**

# CNMI invited to Real World Design Challenge

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System has received an invitation to participate in the Real World Design Challenge, an annual high school competition for all states and territories.

The challenge's goal is to transform the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education in the U.S. by providing professional science and engineering and learning resources to students and teachers.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed that PSS had formally accepted the invitation of Dr. Ralph K. Coppola, the challenge's project director, after securing the support of the Governor's Office.

Sablan said this is the first time CNMI schools will join the competition, which she described as a good opportunity for students from the Commonwealth to engage in real-world activities relating to science, technology, engineering, and math.

On Feb. 10 and 11, the commissioner said public and private schools will showcase their projects for the annual PSS-wide STEM Fair which entries to the state-level competition will also be presented. The commissioner, however, has yet to disclose the competing schools but mentioned that the Marianas High School aviation class is among the participating teams in the competition. The upcoming PSS STEM Fair also covers projects of elementary students.

The Real World Design Challenge began in 2008 through a partnership between industry, government, academia, and non-profit. The partners were committed to bringing a program to schools that brought professional engineering resources into the classroom, was free to participate in, and could scale to every school in the United States. On its first year, 10 states participated.

Sablan said that every school that participates in the challenge gets $1 million in professional engineering software along with training, curriculum materials, and access to mentors. She said competing teams of high school students are mandated to use these resources to solve an engineering challenge that is currently faced by industry.

Based on the competition's website, students first compete in a state level Governor's Cup and the team with the best design in each state gets an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals. For the state level, governors sponsor the program in their states.

Pleased with the invitation, the commissioner expressed her excitement on the upcoming event next month. Based on the competition's schedule posted on its website, state challenge digital submission scored by judged is due on Feb. 7-17 while state winners will be announced on Feb. 20-24. For the national challenge, submission is slated for April 10-18, while the national challenge is on April 20-23.

"We are very pleased to know that the executive branch is supporting this project for our students and we're very excited," the commissioner told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the competition is also supported by the Federal Aviation Administration and the administration of President Barrack Obama.

# Zoning now hiring administrative assistant

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Zoning Office is currently hiring for a qualified individual to fill in the full-time position of administrative assistant.

Acting Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro confirmed in an interview that they are "currently doing immediate hiring" to fill in the available position currently held by Bing Taitano who has submitted her resignation letter effective March.

"It was an urgent decision that had to be made by Ms. Taitano. It was sooner than expected," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune.*

Ogumoro said they began their hiring process early to have enough time to train Taitano's replacement.

"We will provide on-the-job training," said Ogumoro.

Qualified applicants must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or immediate relatives, a high school graduate and with two years of progressive experience in administrative work, proficient in office software, familiar with JD Edwards system, with valid CNMI driver's license, with good communication and people skills, and able to work flexible hours.

Duties and responsibilities of an administrative assistant include receiving and screening phone calls and visitors; scheduling office appointments and meetings; providing applicants with application materials and contacts applicants to submit additional information as required; entering data from zoning permit files into the zoning database; and maintaining permit, project, financial, and personnel records.

Salary is $20,000 a year and health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Applications may be submitted hand delivered to the Zoning office at the second floor of Joeten Building in Dandan or via email to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp.

Deadline for submission of applications and all requirements is Thursday, Jan. 19 at 4pm.

Ogumoro is optimistic that the new staffer will be able to carry on with what Taitano was able to accomplish at the Zoning Office.

"Any dedicated and hard-working person taking over will be able to fulfill these duties and assignments satisfactorily," added Ogumoro.

# Student cooking competition set

In honor of National Nutrition Month in March, the Public School System Food and Nutrition Services is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Student Healthy Recipe Contest.

This year's theme is "Get Your Plate In Shape" and will focus on the healthy ChooseMyPlate.gov guidelines that replaced the Food Guide Pyramid. Recipes will feature local produce, and will be judged at a cook-off in late March.

Public and private schools (K-12) that would to like participate are encouraged to contact PSS nutritionist Dianne Esplin, RD, at dianne.esplin@cnmipss.org for complete rules.

The deadline for schools to submit their intent to participate is Monday, Jan. 23, at 4:30pm. Students who are interested should contact their principal. ***(PR)***

## Saipan Community School Honor Roll list for 2nd Quarter

### 6th Grade
"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99
Jae Hyung Park
Joo Young Kim

"B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49
Nathanael Lim
Paul Heo
Rachel Kim

### 7th Grade
"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99
Carl Dela Cruz
Yu Bin park
Kevin lee
Stephanie Lee

"B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49
Alex Kim
Elnathan Wong
Ivan Seo
David Crisostimo

### 8th Grade
"A" Honor Roll 3.50-3.99
Qquintin Ramsey
Ji Hoon Lee
Mary Grace Tiglao
Jun Pyo Jeon
Tammy Ackerman
Jason Lee

"B" Honor Roll 3.00-3.49
Jameson Kui Lee

**Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana**
**Ofisinan I Gubietno**
**Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND**

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 094 D 03, containing an area of approximately 951 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Man Bao Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Directors of the Corporation are Cheung, Pingyin and Yuan, Beihua.

The President/Treasurer of the Corporation is Cheung, Pingyin and the Vice-President/Secretary is Yuan, Beihua.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with several business activities such as tour agency, a restaurant, a car rental, automobile repair shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Garapan, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 26, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

**NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU**

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensiona para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tånu' pupbliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 094 D 03, ni kinonsisti åria kåsi guaha 951 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Garapan, Saipan. I kopian i lugåt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Man Bao Corporation, CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Corporation siha si Cheung, Pingyin yan si Yuan Beihua.

I Presidenti /Tresureru gi Corporation si Cheung, Pingyin yan i Sigundu Presidenti/Sekritåriu si Yuan, Beihua.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Antonio Rasiang.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa o lugåt solamienti para hinangai developing yan managing facility yan pulu aktibidåt bisnis siha tåtkumu our agency, sagan chumotchu, atkilon kareta, shop manareklan tumobit.

I teman i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon sa' 25 åñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 åñus.

I maproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt, ingklusu i prisenti na estroktura.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya Garapan, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Ineru 26, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

**ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP**

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong yaar mángemáng , data awewee, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 094 D 03, eyoor tiwabwughúw limeigh me eew laapal(951 square meters) elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Arabwal, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Man Bao, eew CNMI Corporation. Schóól assamwoolul Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin , me Yuan, Beihua.

Samwoolul/Treseróru (President/Treasurer) Coporation nge Cheung, Pingyin me aruschayúl Samwool/Sekkretaria (Vice President/Secretary) nge Yuan, Beihua.

iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Antonio Rasiang.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me lemeli eew facilidóód il business rel tour agency, leliyal mwungo(restaurant), car rental, ferúl ghareta (automobile repair shop) me bwal akkaw mwóghutughut.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon nge ebwe mwiril sángi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw, me bwal meta kka e akkayu llól bwuley yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Arabwal, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 26, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

# 'Establishments should do part in keeping Garapan clean'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A non-profit organization that conducts regular cleanups is urging all business establishments in Garapan to join them in their efforts to maintain cleanliness on Saipan, particularly in their area which is considered the island's tourist district.

PDM Promoters, Inc. made this appeal Saturday after conducting this year's first monthly cleanup along the streets of Garapan this year.

A total of 18 volunteers, including five young members of the Saipan Awaodori Team, took part in the cleanup that collected 600 lbs of trash picked up along Coral Tree Avenue, the Paseo de Marianas, then to the Garapan Fire Station along Beach Road up to Joeten Hafa Adai Center.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters noted in an interview that several businesses in the area showed improper disposal of trash as evidenced by overflowing trash bins.

"They leave their trash bins overflowing with trash and they are definitely an eyesore for tourists passing by the area. It's embarrassing," said Siwa.

Siwa said they are saddened to see that some of the businesses in Garapan have relied on their group's cleanups that they don't take responsibility for their garbage and the cleanliness of their surroundings.

"We urge businesses to be responsible for their own trash and not rely on our group to pick up their trash just because we volunteer and do monthly cleanups in Garapan," Siwa told *Saipan Tribune*. "We should all do our part to take care of our environment."

Siwa also pointed out that trash bins along Paseo de Marianas, which is covered by their monthly cleanups, are always filled with household trash instead of the regular trash from tourists.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This photo shows littered trash at the corner of the motorcycle rental beside Winchell's in Garapan. PDM Promoters, Inc., a non-profit organization that does monthly cleanups in Garapan, is urging all business establishments in the area to join them in their efforts to maintain cleanliness especially in the island's tourist district.

According to Siwa, they understand that trash load at Paseo de Marianas is substantial on Fridays or after the Garapan Street Market event on Thursdays.

"But even on regular days, you will still see a lot of trash that obviously do not come from tourists," she said.

Siwa underscored the need for everybody's cooperation in maintaining the cleanliness of the island, especially in Garapan.

"It's disheartening to see that we do our part while others don't," she added.

Division of Environmental Quality Safe Drinking Water Program manager Joe M. Kaipat, when asked for comment, acknowledged that they have been dealing with this issue for a long time and the lack of enforcement of existing regulations does not help them address the problem.

Kaipat serves as coordinator for DEQ's Cleanup Brigade, an initiative started by agency management and staff in 1996 to encourage volunteers to take part in regular cleanups throughout the island.

Kaipat said yesterday that about 20 to 30 percent of businesses in Garapan, including make-shift apartment complexes in the area, do not have proper trash disposal "and depend on other businesses so they don't have to pay for their trash (disposal)."

"We ask these businesses to properly dispose of their trash," he said. "It's as simple as that. If you don't have proper waste disposal, please get one."

Kaipat also commended volunteer groups such as PDM Promoters which have become stewards of the environment through their years of participation in monthly cleanups.

"A lot of these groups are doing their part to contribute to the community we live in. We should all do our part and not just depend on these volunteer groups and the government," he said.

Kaipat added, "All we ask is for you to look after your own trash. If you don't want to pick up other people's trash, then at least take care of your own."

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### CHC board of trustees meeting tomorrow

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of trustees will hold a regular board meeting tomorrow, Jan 18, 11am at the administration building of the CHC conference room No. 2 at Lower Navy Hill. ***(PR)***

### *Marianas Pa'gu* to feature Buckingham

*Marianas Pa'gu: Marianas Perspectives*, with host and producer John "Bolis" Gonzales will feature CNMI Attorney General Ed Buckingham on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012, in a conversation about the AG's Office, its relationship with agencies, and who the AG is beholden to. Watch nightly during primetime on ABC Ch. 7 from 6pm to 7pm Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Shows also air on www.betelnutradio.com. For questions, appearance, or sponsorship, contact 285-META (6382) or email johnogonzales@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

### Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 17 and 20, from 11am to 4pm.

The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***

### FOA's latest production feature 'The Miracle Worker'

All Friends of the Arts members and friends are being invited to watch their latest performance, The Miracle Worker, a moving story of Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan, this next weekend, Jan. 20 and 21 at 7pm and Jan. 22 at 3pm. All shows will be at the MHS Dolphin Theater (Bldg. T). Tickets cost $12 for FOA members,$15 for non-member adults and $8 for students and children over 4. Contact Frank Gibson at 287-7476 or flgibson@yahoo.com for tickets and reservations. ***(PR)***

### First aid/CPR/AED training dates

- Adult First Aid/CPR/AED: Jan. 21, Saturday, 8am-1pm
- Adult CPR/AED, Jan. 24, Tuesday, 6pm-9pm
- First Aid: Jan. 25, Wednesday, 6pm-9pm

Contact the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter at 234-3459 to register. To learn more, visit www.redcross.org/training. ***(ARC)***

### Chamber Installation Dinner on Jan. 21

The 2012 Saipan Chamber of Commerce Officers and Directors Installation Dinner will be held this Jan. 21, 2012, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. Jerry Tan, president of Tan Holdings, will be this year's keynote speaker. The Chamber will also announce its 2011 Businessperson of the Year award recipient. The Chamber will continue with its Installation Dinner tradition and hold a silent auction to raise funds for the Scholarship Awards Program.

Reservations for the $50-per-head dinner are being accepted. Reserve seating for the event by calling the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices at 233-7150/7152, or send an email to coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### Jan. 17, 2000

**Pension, refunds outpace NMRIF's collection**

The NMI Retirement Fund has collected $7.993 million in total contribution as of Dec. 31, 1999, according to NMIRF Administrator Juan S. Torres.

However, the Fund paid $9.404 million in pension and refunds and $534,000 in other general and administrative expenses. With the huge cash outflow versus revenue, the Fund's cash flow is negative $1.945 million for the last three months.

Based on the financial report ending December 1999, NMIRF has total cash available amounting to $2.705 million, enough to cover pension cost for the entire month of January 2000.

**Govt extends state of emergency in Alamagan**

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday extended the declaration of disaster emergency in the CNMI in the wake of the continued threat of major volcanic eruption in Alamagan, an island north of Saipan, which has alarmed officials since July last year.

The extension means that the area remains off-limits to human habitation and that travel to the island is still restricted, except for monitoring activities conducted by authorities.

According to the latest declaration by the governor, volcanic activity and seismic phenomena in Alamagan that prompted the initial emergency status continue to exist nearly six months after it showed signs of possible major eruption.

### Jan. 17,2004

**CUC personnel reclassification OK'd**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Board of Directors adopted Friday a new personnel reclassification and compensation system for CUC employees.

The move also meant the board's formal recognition of the report submitted by the CUC's off-island personnel consultant, Fox Lawson.

The Fox Lawson findings aim to finally set the standards for personnel classification and compensation at the utility firm.

**CUC board demands AGO opinion on CIP projects**

Alarmed by the transfer of capital improvement projects, which they claimed lack legal basis, members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board demanded yesterday for the immediate issuance of an opinion from the Attorney General's Office.

This even as they stressed that they had actually made that request to AGO months ago.

The board noted the need of an AGO opinion after getting facts during yesterday's special meeting that CUC's capital improvement projects have been transferred to the U.S. Army Corps as instructed by Gov. Juan N. Babauta last April.

### Jan. 17,2006

**Tudela to represent NMI in US Mayors' meeting in DC**

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela will be off-island starting Jan. 22, Sunday, to represent the CNMI in the upcoming Mayors' Winter Meeting in Washington D.C.

Tudela confirmed his attendance to the 74th Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which is from Jan. 25 to 27. The mayor will leave Saipan on Sunday and will be back on Jan. 31.

He said the meeting would be his first during his second term. He had attended the conference in previous years. "It's my fifth time to attend the summit. I've been a member in the summit for five years now," he said.

**Cepeda urges administration to balance business interests**

Newly installed Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Charles Cepeda said the Fitial administration should keep the balance between attracting new foreign investors and providing support to existing businesses that have been paying taxes to the CNMI government.

Cepeda said fresh investments would generally promote economic development, but the government should maintain a fair playing field that would not interfere with existing businesses' ability to compete.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had appointed Cepeda to his think tank committee that was tasked to come up with solutions to the Commonwealth's economic problem.

# Pacific

# PNG defense force debt reduces security preparedness

**PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea** (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—The PNG Defence Force is riddled in debts running into millions of kina that it was not in a position to come to the aid of the country when needed, it has been revealed.

An Independent Investigation Committee (IIC) has found that money allocated for the army to carry out its constitutional and development duties, including the building of its capability for its preparedness for national and international security has been compromised.

In its report, the IIC highlighted that the control of the army was not in the hands of the Commander and his senior officers but in the hands of civilians and the Defence Secretary as they control the money.

"Strategic and operational management of the Defence Force is not in the hands of the Commander and his senior management team because they are not able to control their finances to effect their strategic and management decisions.

"The IIC questions how the Defence Force can continue to function like that when the commander and operational units continue to beg for funds from a secretary and his staff that remain aloof to the priorities and needs of the Defence Force.

"How can the Defence Force promptly respond when the Government and the country needs it under the present circumstance?" the IIC questioned.

The IIC reported that all the PNGDF funds have been spent and diverted not on Defence Force purposes but for civilian staff purposes.

In its investigation, the IIC said it found that the PNGDF two operating accounts – the Paymaster's Impress Account and the Drawing account – were grossly abused.

The IIC found that the civilian staff drew money under the sick leave encashment scheme totalling K683,903.40 in 1990 alone while in the four year period between 2007 and 2010, an amount of K2,549,570 was paid to 23 of the Department of Defence staff.

"None of these recipients were terminally ill, nonetheless they all got paid. No army personal benefited, only civilian staff. Money amounts were paid in the peaking order; those in the top got more while those at the bottom got less.

"What is more? Those who received it, approved it or influenced it," the IIC said in its report.

The IIC said the root problem was structural and as long as the current structure persist, the army will be at the whim and control of a civilian Chief Accounting Officer and where the civilian secretary and his senior civilian staff remain ignorant and inattentive to the priorities and constitutional duties of the army, the Defence Force will continue to face the problem it is facing.

The IIC said the structure was inconsistent to the best practice of Defence Force re-organisation and reform around the world.

The IIC recommended that the control of the PNGDF funds should be placed in the hands of the commander and a full investigation should be conducted into the payments. The IIC said to date the PNGDF owed K43,354,487.79 to Nationwide Catering Services, accumulated over four years and K12,872,969.02 for outstanding claims as of December 2010.

## Vanuatu Island, thought to be 'natural site,' for sale

**PORT VILA, Vanuatu** (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—A person has to be so desperate that he is prepared to sell his or someone's island for a mere Vt38 million or $AU400, 000.

The amount is the price tag for the beautiful Turtle Island, approximately the size of Iiriki Island, which is located between Aore Island and Malo Island and is known as a popular picnic spot.

The Vanuatu SDA Mission has alerted Daily Post to the "For Sale" Notice for Turtle Island for $400,000.

It is not clear at this stage who is behind the notice but historical documents we have in our possession show that on October 25 of 1982, the President of the Vanuatu SDA Mission, Pastor D.V. Bertelsen wrote to the first ever Director of Lands since Independence, Selwyn Leodoro, who was also the Chairman of the Environment and Conservation Committee, expressing the Mission's interest to return the island to the Lini-Government at the time to turn it into a Natural Site.

In his response to the letter, the then Chairman of Environment and Conservation Committee, Selwyn Leodoro wrote, "Thank you for your letter dated 25th October 1982 concerning the above-mentioned island as a National Site.

"As promised, your proposal was discussed at the national Environment and Conservation Committee meeting held on 29th October 1982.

The Committee fully supports the proposal and has recommended to the Minister for Land and Natural Resources to declare the island a Natural Conservation Site. Such a declaration will be signed and publicized shortly."

We got in touch with the former Chairman and he was shocked to hear that Turtle Island has been put up for sale. He recalled that when he answered the pastor's correspondence, it was merely two years after independence and the Lini Regime was still organising itself.

"I remember that at the time Pastor Sethy John Regenvanu was the Minister responsible for Lands and Natural Resources. There were so many challenges in front of him at the time as the country was also returning to the second national elections in 1983 so I do not believe he ever made the declaration to have the island preserved and maintained as a Natural Site," Leodoro said.

In a more recent correspondence dated November 20 of 2003, Legal Counsel for the Australian Union Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Mission, Bill Bani & Partners wrote to the Department of Lands in Luganville saying, "We advise we act for the Australian Union Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. According to our instruction or search in the registry of title office in Vila, our client as the registered Lessee of the Turtle Island which is a dependent Island of Aore since 12th of May of 1949. We enclose a pre independence certificate of title to prove that.

**TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS** AP

Chief Palota Taamu, of Samoa, watches from the fairway as the group of Aaron Baddeley and Brendan Steele hit from the first tee during the second round of the Tournament of Champions PGA Tour golf tournament in Kapalua, Hawaii, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012.

## PACIFIC BRIEFS

### Incumbent Kiribati president Tong wins reelection

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—Anote Tong will serve a third term as the President of Kiribati. Following the country's parliamentary elections in November, MPs nominated 3 members for the position of president. The popular election was deferred for two weeks to avoid Christmas and New Year festivities, and the poll was held on Friday.

Anote Tong won just over 40 percent of the vote, beating his nearest challenger, Tetaua Taitai by more than 2,000 votes.

### Bainimarama to lead troubled Fiji mine negotiations

**SUVA, Fiji** (Fiji Times/PIR)—Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama will oversee talks and negotiations related to the Namosi Joint Venture mining project. Located in the Waisoi area in Namosi, the gold and copper mining project is expected to have an initial investment of $1 billion with a similar turnover annually. In a Ministry of Information statement on Friday night, Commodore Bainimarama announced that he would take over the responsibility of talks and negotiations on the mine. "As a result of some people seeking to politicise the project for their own benefit by spreading misinformation, the Prime Minister wants to personally ensure all relevant parties' voices continue to be heard, in particular those of the landowners," the statement said. The statement said an Environment Impact Assessment and economic impact analyses werestill being conducted.

### Former Tahiti president proposes French nuclear tax

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—French Polynesia's former president, Gaston Tong Sang, has called for a French tax on nuclear energy to compensate his territory for the legacy of France's nuclear weapons testing regime. Mr Tong Sang made the call while launching the French presidential election campaign on behalf of Nicolas Sarkozy's UMP Party. He says he has written to the French leader, suggesting a one euro levy on each megawatt of electricity produced by nuclear power stations be given to French Polynesia.

### Fee increase at American Samoa hospital delayed again

**PAGO PAGO, American Samoa,** (Samoa News/PIR)—LBJ Medical Center's financial shortfall is still in limbo following a letter from LBJ board chairman Moananu Va to LBJ chief executive officer Mike Gerstenberger yesterday afternoon informing him that the board of directors "has agreed to delay the rate increase for another 20 days" after meeting with Gov. Togiola Tulafono and the Fono yesterday morning. The initial fee hike that was to be implemented on Christmas Evewas postponed until today (Jan. 14), to await the outcome of the government's efforts to provide funding to the hospital.

## Samoa Opposition MP critical of reserve seats for women

**APIA, Samoa** (Samoa Observer/PIR)—One more Opposition MP has attacked the ruling government'sproposal to amend the Constitution to have more women in Parliament. By doing so, Afualo Wood Salele, the MP for Salega, joined his Tautua Party leader, PalusalueFa'apo II to criticise the Government's plan.

Last year, Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi announced a plan to change the Constitution to ensure 10 per cent of Parliament seats are occupied by women. It means the fixed number of seats is movable to ensure the 10 per cent target is achieved.

Afualo, who is the Opposition's Shadow Minister of Finance, disagrees.

"This is a stupid way of getting more women into Parliament, it isn't right. Morally it's wrong," he says.

"Government should have given this to the political parties, and say; 'Ok look, each party is to come up with 20 percent women candidates to ensure the 10 percent is achieved and then it will up to the parties to find their people."

Afualo says entrance to Parliament is much sweeter when one earns it. "When you come into to Parliament [through winning your contest] you know you belong there, you earned it.

"You go about your business knowing that the place you hold is a place you worked hard for. If you come into Parliament through this new process you will be not be comfortable with yourself because you will know you don't belong there.

"You have done nothing to merit your being there, you are then on a mere technicality, simply put, you are there because Tuilaepa put you there."

Afualo says the change basically means Prime Minister Tuilaepa is choosing five women to take up seats in Parliament.

[PIR editor's note: 'The Samoa Observer'reported that the Leader of the Opposition said that Prime Minister Tuilaepa is merely "to score "brownie points" with the United Nations." Palusalue Fa'apo II also called on the Government to allow people to vote on the proposed constitutional amendment reserving 10% of seats in parliament for women. In contrast 'Radio New Zealand International' reported that Samoa NGOs are supporting the Prime Minister's move.]

"Tuilaepa is saying that if by the end of the elections and no women have won, an extra five seat will be added to the 49 already in place.

"But if five women win within the 49 then there is no need for the extra five.

"So in the back of our minds we have this imaginary number of 54 but it will depend on how many women win during the elections, I mean who does that?"

Prime Minister Tuilaepais adamant the only way to ensure a better representation of women in Parliament is through the new process.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
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## EDITORIAL

# Afghanistan's future

It takes a lot for the grinding conflict in Afghanistan to make bigger headlines than the Republican presidential contest, but recent news about that country has made even the Romney-Gingrich slugfest pale in importance.

First, and most dramatically, a new National Intelligence Estimate suggests that little progress has been made over the last year in improving security or boosting the country's government or military capabilities. Just as disheartening was the release of a video that appears to show four U.S. Marines urinating on the corpses of slain Taliban fighters. Finally, word has emerged of a recent diplomatic shift that could lead to the renewal of peace talks with the Taliban.

The first two of these stories show why the third is so vital.

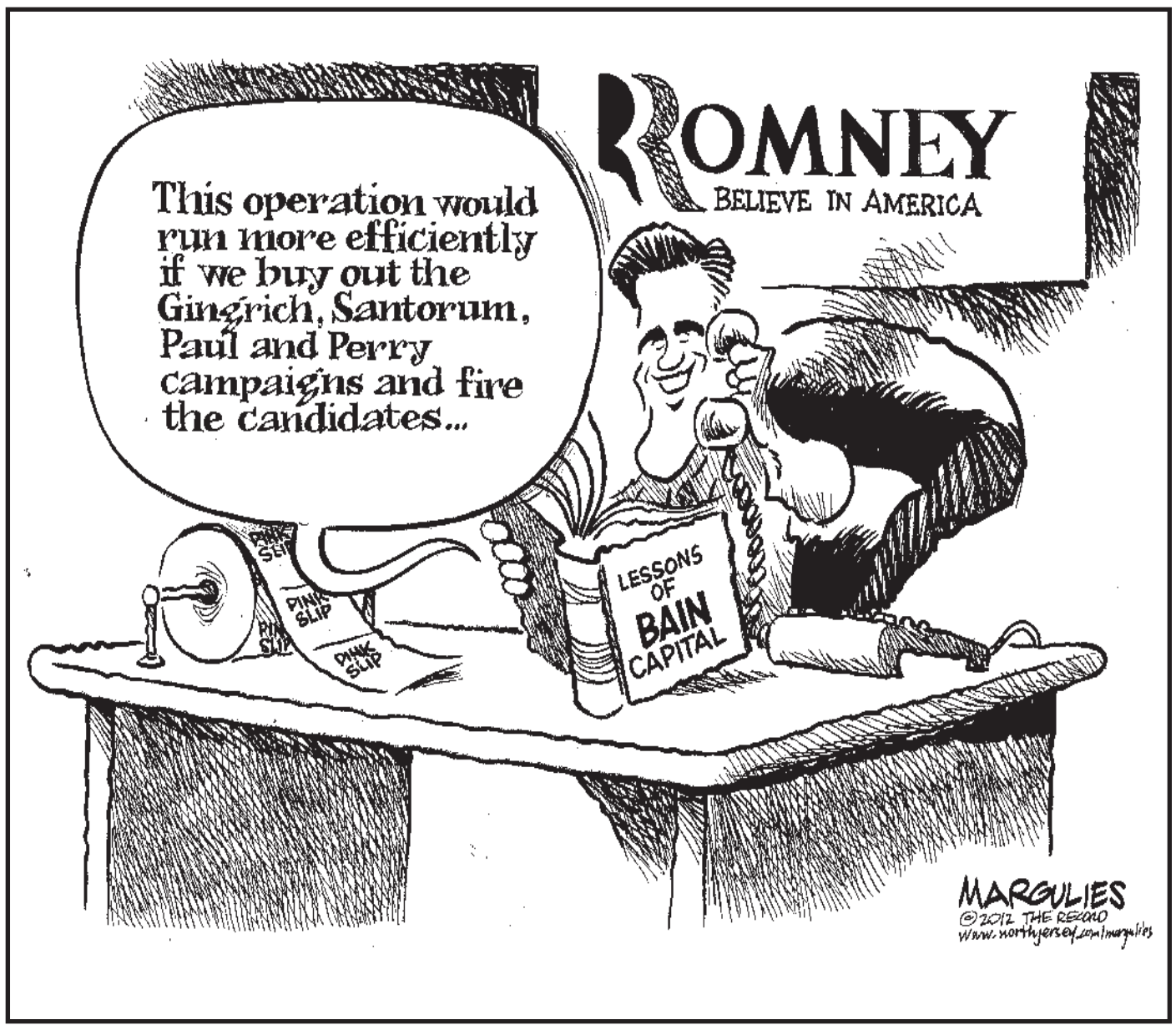
Most U.S. and international forces are slated to withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. They will leave behind either a central government that's strong enough to sustain itself, or a weak and insular cabal beset on all sides by Islamist militants, leading to the high probability of a collapse that would negate the gains from 13 years of effort, billions of dollars in expenditures and more than 1,800 American lives. The best way to prevent the latter outcome is to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the Taliban.

Those of a hawkish political bent will see the latest National Intelligence Estimate as evidence that the 2014 deadline for withdrawal is ill-advised and that our military commitment to Afghanistan should be open-ended. We see it as proof that no "surge," and no expenditure of blood and treasure, will succeed. With safe havens for insurgents in neighboring Pakistan and a deep-seated hostility to foreign intervention, Afghanistan is a terrible setting for a nation-building exercise. Stability is likely only if negotiators can forge a compromise in which Islamists would lay down their arms and swear off international terrorism in exchange for political influence within the new government.

The urination video, appearing on YouTube and TMZ, is another good argument for getting out. Every time evidence of bad behavior by U.S. forces emerges, it undermines Afghan civilian support for the U.S. mission, and the video is another step backward. It shows four men in Marine uniforms urinating on what appear to be the corpses of three men lying on sandy ground. "Have a great day, buddy," sneers one of the Marines. Anyone who thinks the U.S. is winning the battle for hearts and minds in Afghanistan should think again.

Last week, the Taliban announced plans to open a political office in Qatar, the opening move for a resumption in talks. Making a deal that grants concessions to the Taliban would be hard for the Obama administration during an election year, and negotiating with murderous zealots who sheltered al-Qaida is more than a little distasteful, but few foreign policy decisions could be more crucial.

(c)2012 the Los Angeles Times


This operation would run more efficiently if we buy out the Gingrich, Santorum, Paul and Perry campaigns and fire the candidates...
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LESSONS OF BAIN CAPITAL
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# Mideast talks: Flicker of light amid the gloom

**By FRIDA GHITIS**
McClatchy Newspapers

*Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. Readers may send her email at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

Sometimes, important news events manage to sneak through under the radar. That has happened many times in the Arab-Israeli conflict, which usually receives far too much media attention, often with damaging consequences.

Ambitious efforts to forge peace have often cracked under the red-hot spotlight, where negotiators and politicians make vows and promises they later find difficult to retract. But quieter, behind the scenes activities have a history of producing happy surprises.

Of course, quiet efforts can also fail. There are never any guarantees. But still, it was a nice surprise to start the New Year with news that Israelis and Palestinians had their first face-to-face meeting in 16 months. Nobody calls the new round of meetings in the Jordanian capital "negotiations." And everyone is understandably expressing extreme skepticism about the chances for success. It's true that there are many reasons to expect that not much, if anything, will come from this exploratory round aimed at seeing if there is any chance to restart peace talks. And yet, some chance is better than none.

Under normal circumstances, the first meeting might have made large, bold headlines. But most journalists were either on vacation or in Iowa when word came out that behind-the-scenes prodding by King Abdullah of Jordan persuaded Palestinians to sit down with Israelis.

The meetings are not considered negotiations because Palestinians are holding fast to their demand that Israel stop all Jewish construction in East Jerusalem or the West Bank before they will negotiate. Israel says any compromises will be made as a result of talks, not as a pre-requisite for them.

Israel and the so-called Quartet for Peace, made up of the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and the United States, say it's time for full negotiations without preconditions.

The prospect that these preliminary non-negotiations will fail are high. And yet, the fact that expectations are minimal makes it harder to be disappointed. And history has shown that often, the quieter the talks the better the outcome.

The two most transformative events in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict exploded onto the front pages in 1977 with news so surprising _ and so good for those who wanted peace _ that people could hardly believe it was true.

We remember the 1978 Camp David Accords that brought a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt as the turning point in the Middle East. But what made the deal possible were secret negotiations held months earlier in Morocco between emissaries of Egypt and Israel, paving the way for a visit and a historic speech by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat at the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, in Jerusalem.

Not even the Carter White House knew about the talks. Less than a year later, another set of secret meetings, this time with deep involvement from the United States, gave birth to the first peace deal between an Arab government and the Jewish state.

Fifteen years later, the other major breakthrough, this one between Israelis and Palestinians, also came as the result of secret meetings. The quiet discussions held in Norway produced the Oslo Accords and the construction of what was supposed to be a path to reconciliation and a lasting peace between the two sides, including the establishment of a Palestinian state.

In order for historic agreements to be reached, many currents of history have to converge. First, the right people must emerge. Individuals who are not only committed to peace but willing to take risks and break with the conventional wisdom are essential. There is also a need for the right historic environment, one that helps individuals decide that a path to peace is the wisest course.

President Sadat decided to make peace with Israel after the 1973 war. That was a war that Egypt lost decisively, but only after initially bringing Israel to the edge of survival, as close as it had come to being wiped off the map. Egyptian pride was restored. But Sadat also realized the route of war was a dead end.

The Oslo accords came after the fall of the Soviet Union and the 1991 Gulf War. The world had changed. The Cold War was over. Palestinian chief Yasser Arafat had lost Moscow's sponsorship.

In 2012 we also have a Middle East in the midst of a fundamental transformation. We have had no signs that truly great leaders are in charge today. Nobody expects these talks to succeed, so at least we will not be disappointed. But, there is always a chance, however small, that the men in charge will surprise us by rising to the occasion.

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# Detained by fear at Gitmo

**By JOSEPH MARGULIES**
Los Angeles Times

*Joseph Margulies is an attorney with the MacArthur Justice Center and a law professor at Northwestern University. He is the author of "Guantanamo and the Abuse of Presidential Power." He is counsel for Abu Zubaydah, a prisoner at the base. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

"I have here in my hand a list of ... names."

When Sen. Joseph McCarthy told the Ohio County Women's Republican Club of Wheeling, W.Va., on Feb. 9, 1950, that he held a list of 205 communists employed by the State Department, he ignited a firestorm and launched a career.

We now know there was no list. Even then, it was obvious McCarthy was not particularly punctilious about the numbers. In Wheeling it was 205; in Salt Lake City it was 57; on the Senate floor it was 81. Nor was he especially careful about the allegation. Maybe they weren't all "card-carrying" communists. Maybe some were just "loyalty risks" or "people with communist connections."

None of that mattered. The number, so peculiar and precise, seemed like the product of careful calculation by government insiders. And it fit with what many people wanted to believe, which also encouraged a suspension of disbelief.

I thought of all this recently because the "list" is back.

Jan. 11 marked 10 years since the first prisoners arrived at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. About 170 remain, even though most have been cleared for transfer by both the George W. Bush and Obama administrations, meaning they have been cleared for release from U.S. custody and transfer to the custody of another country. (In the past, the receiving country has typically released the prisoner in a matter of hours or days because they haven't done anything wrong.) Yet none of these cleared prisoners is likely to leave any time soon, thanks to Congress' annual pot-clanging fest, also known as the National Defense Authorization Act.

Every year, Congress conditions money for the Defense Department on all manner of draconian amendments. This year, like last year, Congress added restrictions that make it all but impossible for the president to transfer prisoners from the base. Congress passed the amendments in the name of national security and dared the president to veto the bill as we head into a presidential election.

Obama blinked. And you wonder why Americans hate politics.

The restrictions on transfer are motivated by the myth of the superhuman terrorist, a demon so dangerous that every precaution seems essential. And the favorite argument to keep them forever is the so-called list of recidivists. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., for instance, warned during the Senate debate over the defense spending bill that "27 percent of detainees who were released got back in the fight."

Claims like this surface periodically. Leave aside the obvious incongruity of describing someone as having "returned" to behavior without having shown they did anything wrong in the first place. All we know is that once they were at Guantanamo, now they aren't, and someone thinks they may be dangerous.

The last time this issue came up, a colleague and I tried to get to the bottom of it. We filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Turns out this "list" is like Gertrude Stein's Oakland: There's no there there.

"Every year, Congress conditions money for the Defense Department on all manner of draconian amendments. This year, like last year, Congress added restrictions that make it all but impossible for the president to transfer prisoners from the base. Congress passed the amendments in the name of national security and dared the president to veto the bill as we head into a presidential election."

Former Guantanamo prisoners are tracked by the Defense Intelligence Agency. But in response to our request, we learned that the DIA has no fixed criteria to determine whether a person has "returned" to anything: "DIA does not endeavor to create any sort of firm guidelines for identifying a detainee as having returned to the fight. The data collected to support this determination simply varies too greatly to allow for categorical simplification."

For that reason, the DIA letter said, "the number of persons suspected of having returned to the fight is subject to constant change. ... That number will rise and fall as DIA analysts gather new data and information and as those analysts revise their assessments of previously gathered evidence and intelligence." A person today might be suspected of having returned to the fight because he has no known source of income. But if he gets a job the next day, he could be taken off the list.

Recently, the director of national intelligence told Congress that "81 (former detainees) are confirmed and 69 are suspected of re-engaging in terrorist or insurgent activities after transfer." He said a person can be "confirmed" based on a preponderance of the evidence but "suspected" based on nothing more than "plausible but unverified" information.

But this does not add much because we still do not know what it takes to make the list, or what these people have supposedly done. The government says it demands more than anti-American propaganda, and it describes what it could be, like recruiting someone to participate in a terrorist operation, but it is careful to note it could also be other stuff that's not on the list. And because officials do not name names, no one can check what they say.

It is certainly true that some people have left Guantanamo and engaged in violent behavior. Independent studies by researchers at Seton Hall University indicate the number is substantially lower than the government's estimate. As important, even according to the government's numbers, the overwhelming majority of suspected "recidivists" are alleged to have engaged in unspecified and undefined "terrorist activities" in Turkey and Russia. Only a small percentage who have been released to Afghanistan or Pakistan, where U.S. forces are engaged, are suspected of wrongdoing.

But in a time of superhuman demons and cowed leaders, anyone who claims to hold in their hands a list of names will get what they want, and even cleared prisoners will stay locked up.

# Libya still awash with weapons

**By WILLIAM SHAW**
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR & PEACE REPORTING

Adam Ahmad was so determined to play a role in the ouster of former Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi that he spent more than $2,300 of his own money to buy a Kalashnikov assault rifle so he could join the Tripoli Revolutionary Brigade.

Today, Gadhafi is dead, and Ahmad, a 22-year-old American of Libyan descent, works with children affected by the conflict.

And he has no intention of surrendering his weapon to transitional authorities.

"I bought my weapon for over $2,300. To turn it in and not get anything back is not my plan right now," he said. "Other people who have bought weapons are saying the same thing."

Post-Gadhafi Libya is awash with arms, from assault rifles like Ahmad's to rocket-propelled grenade launchers and surface-to-air missiles.

The transitional authorities say they want to address the problem, but for the moment at least, they don't appear to know how.

Out of a population of 6.4 million, about 125,000 people are believed to be armed. Many are part of the numerous paramilitary groups that remain independent from the transitional government, according to a report recently by the International Crisis Group.

Ahmad acknowledges that there was "a crazy, crazy amount of weapons" in people's hands.

"Every house has one or two Kalashnikovs in it ... some people also have RPGs around," he added.

And it's not just pistols and rifles that have authorities worried.

According to Peter Bouckaert, emergencies director of Human Rights Watch, as many as 10,000 surface-to-air missiles from the military's stockpile has vanished. That would represent "by far the largest proliferation of SAMs ever," he said.

The United States has hired 30 private contractors and launched a $30 million program to try to find and destroy the missiles, according to an article published in The New York Times last fall.

But it's not this relatively sophisticated weapon that Bouckaert worries about the most.

"The most dangerous weapon in the hands of a terrorist is often just a few tank shells reconfigured as a car bomb and driven into a busy market place," Bouckaert said.

"It is frankly disgusting to see the U.S. spend millions on securing some of the surface-to-air missiles ... and ignore completely the larger danger posed by massive unsecured stocks of explosive weapons. They made the same mistake in Iraq, where they ignored ordinary weapon stocks in their fruitless search for non-existent weapons of mass destruction. You'd think they would have learned a lesson," he said.

For the moment at least, the widespread proliferation of weapons has created few problems in the country.

Hisham Krekshi, deputy chairman of Tripoli's city council, says dealing with armed men is the main priority for the authorities in the capital. But he said that despite the proliferation of arms, the city was relatively peaceful.

"Every day is better than the day before – let's be positive," said Krekshi. "It's safe. My wife drives to work by herself."

The neighboring coastal city of Tajoura, a former anti-Gadhafi stronghold, is also comparatively stable. "I cannot tell you it's 100 percent good, but it's 65 percent," said local businessman Aref Sola.

Still, most officials would like to see those who helped overthrow Gadhafi turn in their weapons. They're just not sure how to achieve that goal.

"Once they're victorious, it's not easy to say, 'Thank you, well done—now can I have your gun?'" Mohammed Azuz, a Libyan engineer, said. "It's not easy to deal with these people."

This essay is available to McClatchy-Tribune News Service subscribers. McClatchy-Tribune did not subsidize the writing of this column; the opinions are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of McClatchy-Tribune or its editors.

*William Shaw is a London-based writer for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲85° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲85° ▼76° | ▲85° ▼76° |

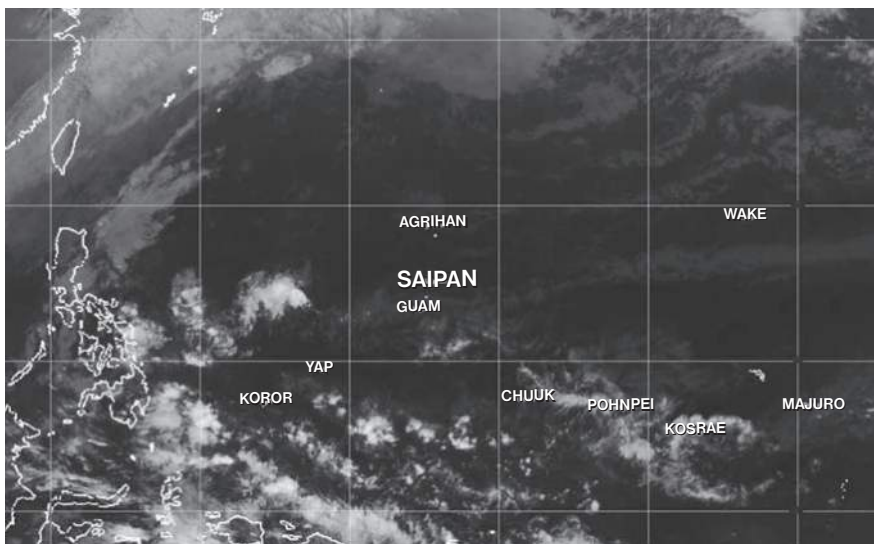
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thundershowers | ▲83 | ▼76 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲85 | ▼78 |
| Yap | Partly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼78 |
| Chuuk | Partly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼79 |
| Pohnpei | Partly Cloudy | ▲85 | ▼78 |
| Kosrae | Partly Cloudy | ▲85 | ▼78 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲84 | ▼79 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | ▲71 | ▼62 |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | ▲43 | ▼18 |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | ▲65 | ▼62 |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | ▲82 | ▼70 |
| London | Partly Cloudy | ▲43 | ▼39 |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | ▲58 | ▼38 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲87 | ▼78 |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | ▲94 | ▼71 |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | ▲75 | ▼63 |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | ▲37 | ▼34 |
| Osaka | Sunny | ▲49 | ▼36 |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | ▲39 | ▼31 |
| Pusan | Partly Cloudy | ▲52 | ▼39 |
| Rome | Sunny | ▲53 | ▼34 |
| Salem | Ice | ▲40 | ▼32 |
| San Francisco | Sunny | ▲53 | ▼35 |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | ▲40 | ▼26 |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | ▲45 | ▼34 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | ▲44 | ▼38 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2012**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves west-southwestward from 20N180 to south of Wake Island at 17N165E then continues as a shear line to Guam and finally to beyond 130E at 11N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 140 miles northwest of this boundary west of 138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 4N130E to end at EQ139E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present in two areas located south of Koror and Yap. One area lies within 60 miles of a line from 6N130E to EQ138E. The second area lies within 60 miles of a line from 5N137E to 2N141E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Guam, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae or within 80 miles of a line from 6N141E to 5N168E. A trade-wind trough extends northeastward from 3N171E to 11N178E. Scattered showers are found near Majuro between 5N and 10N from 170E to the date line.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2:02 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.4 Feet |
| 7:15 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.9 Feet |
| 1:24 PM | Today | High Tide: | 2.0 Feet |
| 8:58 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.1 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:47 AM | 6:07 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:47 AM | 6:07 PM |
| Thursday | 6:47 AM | 6:08 PM |
| Friday | 6:47 AM | 6:09 PM |
| Saturday | 6:47 AM | 6:09 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 12:34 AM | 12:24 PM |
| Wednesday | 1:34 AM | 1:16 PM |
| Thursday | 2:35 AM | 2:11 PM |
| Friday | 3:36 AM | 3:10 PM |
| Saturday | 4:35 AM | 4:10 PM |

*Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.*

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- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

### DEPARTURES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)** | | | |
| C05062 | 2:10am | 2:40am | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)** | | | |
| C05064 | 4:15am | 4:50am | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)** | | | |
| C05064 | 4:15am | 5:45am | 1, 5 via ROP |
| C05070 | 4:35am | 5:25am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| C05068 | 8:25am | 9:15am | Daily |
| C05074 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05076 | 3:10pm | 4:00pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05078 | 6:50pm | 7:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05078 | 7:00pm | 7:50pm | 3, 6 |
| C05072 | 9:55pm | 10:45pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05072 | 10:05pm | 10:55pm | 3, 6 |
| **SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)** | | | |
| DL287 | 6:00am | 8:40am | Daily |
| DL285 | 6:35am | 9:15am | 1, 3, 5, 7 |
| DL297 | 4:25pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)** | | | |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | Daily |
| **SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)** | | | |
| OZ606 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ606 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:20am | Daily via KIX |
| OZ604 | 3:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily |
| **SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)** | | | |
| OZ608 | 3:35am | 7:05am | 4, 7 |
| DL581 | 4:10am | 7:30am | 1, 5 |
| **SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)** | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 |
| **SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)** | | | |
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| **SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)** | | | |
| OZ606/701 | 2:10am | 11:15am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ606/701 | 2:40am | 11:15am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| C05070/191 | 4:35am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM |
| DL287/173 | 6:00am | 10:25pm | Daily via NRT |
| C05068/183 | 8:25am | 9:25pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| C05068/183 | 8:25am | 9:40pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| C05076/183 | 3:10pm | 9:25pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| C05076/183 | 3:10pm | 9:40pm | 1, 4, 7 via GUM |
| C05076/193 | 3:10pm | 11:00pm | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| OZ604/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | Daily via ICN |
| C05072/PR111 | 9:55pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5, 7 via GUM |
| C05072/PR111 | 10:05pm | 7:50am+1 | 3, 6 via GUM |
| **SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)** | | | |
| OZ606/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN |
| OZ606/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| C05076/147 | 3:10pm | 10:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM |
| OZ604/723 | 3:20pm | 10:30pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ604/749 | 3:20pm | 10:50pm | Daily via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)** | | | |
| C05064 | 5:15am | 5:45am | 1, 5 |
| **ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)** | | | |
| C05062 | 3:10am | 3:45am | 1, 5 |
| **GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| C05062 | 2:10am | 3:45am | 1, 5 via ROP |
| C05069 | 2:45am | 3:35am | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| C05071 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C05073 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05075 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05077 | 5:30pm | 6:20pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05077 | 5:40pm | 6:30pm | 3, 6 |
| C05079 | 8:35pm | 9:25pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05079 | 8:45pm | 9:35pm | 3, 6 |
| **NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| DL298 | 10:25am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL288 | 8:40pm | 1:15am+1 | Daily |
| DL286 | 7:40pm | 12:20am+1 | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| **OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ120 | 9:50pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily |
| **SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ603 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily via KIX |
| OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ605 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| **BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 3, 6 |
| DL580 | 10:10pm | 2:55am+1 | 4, 7 |
| **GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |
| **SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| **MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| DL172/288 | 8:00am | 1:15am+1 | Daily via NRT |
| C0190/5077 | 10:55am | 6:30pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| C0190/5079 | 10:55am | 9:35pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| OZ702/605 | 12:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/605 | 12:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/C05071 | 10:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| C0192/5071 | 10:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| C0184/5071 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ704/603 | 11:40pm | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| C0184/5071 | 11:59pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |
| **HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN** | | | |
| OZ724/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ750/603 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ722/605 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/605 | 1:15pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| C0180/5071 | 11:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily |
| **Guam–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily |
| **Rota–Saipan** | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily |
| **Rota–Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily |
| **Saipan–Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| **Tinian–Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |

# Business

## Natural gas price plunge aids families, businesses

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The price of natural gas is plummeting at a pace that has caught even the experts off guard.

A 35 percent collapse in the futures price over the past year has been a boon to homeowners who use natural gas for heat and appliances and to manufacturers who power their factories and make chemicals and materials with it.

The country is flush with natural gas as a result of new drilling techniques that have enabled energy companies to tap vast supplies that were out of reach not so long ago. The country's natural gas surplus has been growing even as the country burns record amounts.

This winter's warm weather slowed the growth in demand, however, and created a glut. In the Northeast, December was the fourth warmest in the last 117 years. Winter supplies are 17 percent above their five-year average.

The natural gas futures price fell 13 percent last week, to $2.67 per 1,000 cubic feet. That's the lowest winter-time level in a decade.

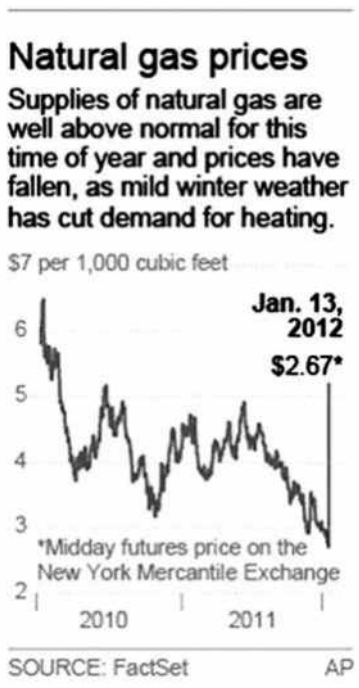
"The market has been overwhelmed with gas," says Anthony Yuen, a commodities analyst at Citibank.

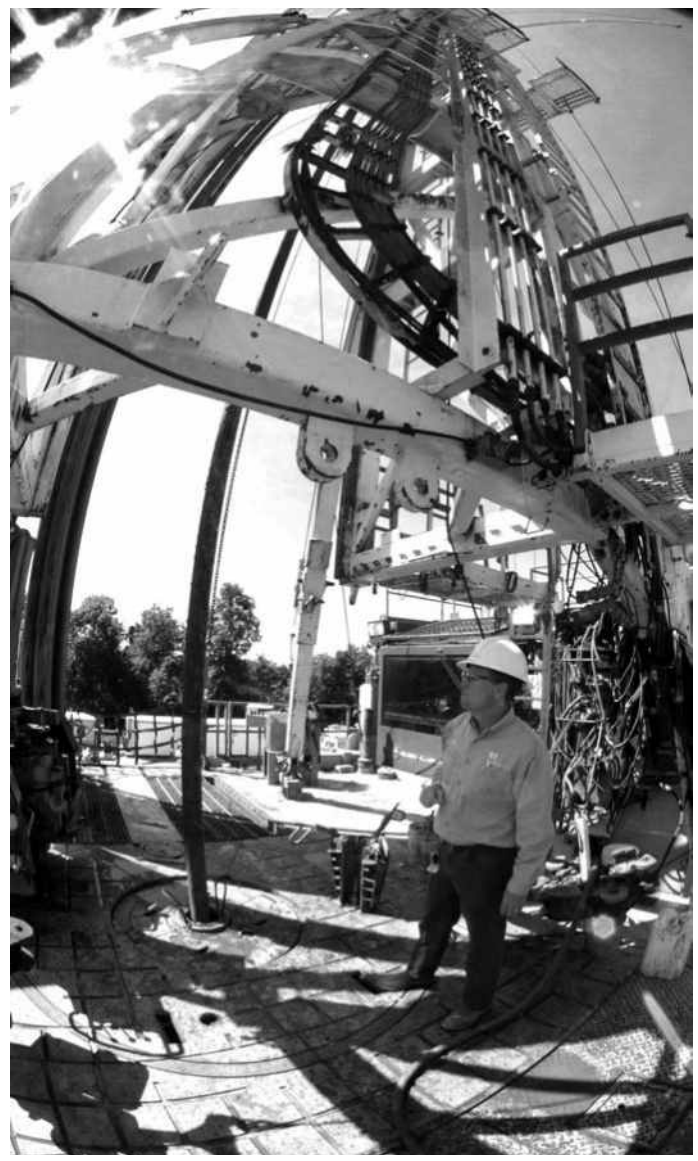
He and other analysts expect the price to average near $3 for all of 2012. If the weather stays mild, the price could even dip below $2, a level not seen since 2002.

Cheap natural gas is mainly a good thing for the economy:

■ More than half of U.S. households use natural gas for heat, and a quarter of the nation's electricity is made from it. Falling heating and electric costs are offsetting the impact of high gasoline prices and enabling families and small businesses to spend on other things. Residential gas and electric customers are saving roughly $200 a year, according to a study by Navigant Consulting.

■ For companies that make plastics, fertilizer and other chemicals derived from natural gas, the falling prices are nothing short of a windfall. The same goes for makers of products from steel to bricks to beer. All use a lot of natural gas to heat their furnaces. U.S. manufacturers are becoming more competitive globally as a result of the country's cheap natural gas, industry officials say.



AP

In this July 27, 2011 file photo, Range Resources site manager Don Robinson stands near the well head by the drill that goes into the shale at a well site for natural gas in Washington, Pa.

Some industries aren't cheering, though.

With electricity prices falling, the profits of all electric power producers—whether they rely on coal, nuclear or wind—are shrinking.

Companies that drill solely for natural gas are earning less these days, too. That's prompting some to hunt instead for oil, whose price is near $100 a barrel.

Still, drillers aren't reducing natural gas production as much as they would have during previous periods of low prices. They've found ways to produce the fuel at much lower cost so they can be profitable at much lower prices. And, in many cases, natural gas is a byproduct of oil drilling, which is so profitable that companies are going after every barrel they can find.

Analysts say in some oil and gas fields, drillers could give the gas away and still be hugely profitable just from selling the oil.

The benefit of falling natural gas prices to homeowners is not as big as a major drop in oil and gasoline prices would provide. The average household's annual gasoline bill is about $4,000, roughly double the average annual gas and electric bill.

Also, the fuel cost is only half of a customer's bill. The rest is transmission and delivery charges, which don't change along with fuel prices.

## Tax cut talks focus on budget cuts, new fees

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Republicans would cut federal employee benefits. President Barack Obama would raise fees for airline passengers and eliminate Saturday mail delivery. Democrats in Congress would charge employers higher premiums for federal pension guarantees.

As Congress returns from a three-week holiday break, those are a few of the ideas for how to pay for extending an average $20-a-week Social Security payroll tax cut through the end of 2012 without adding to the government's long-term debt.

Obama and fellow Democrats insisted on taxing the wealthy to offset the deficit impact of the payroll tax cut and of providing jobless benefits to the long-term unemployed. While still useful as campaign fodder, that idea is largely a bygone one.

House and Senate negotiators are drawing on Obama's budget and the work of the defunct congressional supercommittee on deficit reduction to come up with the $160 billion or so needed to continue the tax cut and federal jobless benefits. Both of are set to expire Feb. 29.

Republicans controlling the House took a political drubbing in a December battle that produced a two-month extension of unemployment aid and the 2 percentage point tax cut for 160 million workers.

While House Republicans went after Democratic sacred cows such as federal worker benefits and health care spending, leading senators made progress on a bigger deal before it collapsed because of a lack of time, aides in both parties say.

Health care remains part of the equation. To prevent a 27 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors under an outdated 1997 formula, negotiators are trying to find $39 billion in cuts elsewhere in health care spending. That would fix the problem for two years.

Some of the money being considered to offset the lost payroll tax revenue is practically free. For example, auctioning portions of the electromagnetic spectrum to wireless companies. That would raise perhaps $16 billion over the coming decade.

Obama wants to raise $4 billion more by selling off surplus federal property. There's an additional $3 billion to be reaped by preventing state and local government workers from improperly claiming Social Security benefits.

One idea seen as likely to make it into the final package is the repeal of a tax break taken by businesses that buy corporate jets. It would raise about $5 billion over a decade.

## Markets are calm—too calm; Why pros are spooked

**NEW YORK** (AP)—After wild price swings that left investors bewildered and not a cent richer last year, stocks are rising again, and calm has settled over the market like blue skies after a storm.

Or maybe eye of the storm is the better metaphor.

"It's a little too calm," says the usually unflappable Jim Paulsen of Wells Fargo Management, a bullish stock strategist not easily spooked. "Maybe we're setting up for a break."

Whether that break will bring a rise or fall in stocks, Paulsen is not sure. But he suspects it'll be big whichever direction.

For eight straight days, the Standard & Poor's 500 index has moved up or down less than 1 percent, a run that is both remarkable and a tad eerie. The last time stocks moved so little for so long was a 13-day streak starting last April 21—just before a bumpy five-month drop to near bear-market lows.

Other curiosities, ominous or otherwise, from the first two weeks of the year:

■ The hapless and helpless are hot. Netflix Inc., the DVD-by-mail and streaming entertainment company that enraged customers by raising rates, is up 36 percent. Bank of America is up 19 percent. Both lost more than half their value in 2011.

■ The first is last. The best-performing of the S&P's 10 categories last year, utilities, is now the worst. Those stocks rose 15 percent last year but have fallen 3 percent this year. Investors apparently have decided they're too expensive. The second-best sector last year, consumer staples, is down 1.3 percent.

■ Stocks are up, even if profits aren't. The S&P has risen 17 percent from its 2011 low on Oct. 3 despite increasing pessimism among analysts about profits. In three months since that low, analysts have cut fourth-quarter profit estimates at companies they follow by 19 percent, the most since the depths of the Great Recession three years ago.

For all of 2012, the analysts now say earnings will rise 10 percent, down from a projected 17 percent five months ago, according to FactSet, a provider of financial data.

■ Where have all the traders gone? The markets have been calm even though few shares are trading hands. Low volume typically exaggerates price moves. Experts say last year's abnormally low average daily volume on the New York Stock Exchange, 4.3 billion shares traded, was one reason stocks gyrated so much. This year, volume has averaged 3.9 billion.

The good news for investors is that the S&P has risen 2.5 percent in 2012. But Barry Knapp, head of U.S. equity strategy at Barclays Capital, smells trouble.

The usual explanation for stocks rising this time of year is what's known as the January effect: Investors sell stock at the end of previous year to lock in losses for tax purposes, then buy again in the new year.

This year, it's more like the January defect.

Knapp says investors sold as expected, but then got nervous and didn't follow through with the crucial second part—buying. That's his explanation, anyway for the low volume. He's worried the small gains this year could prove fleeting.

## HK protesters demand D&G apologize for photo ban

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Occupy Dolce & Gabbana? A Hong Kong outlet of the Italian fashion label has been the target of repeated protests because residents claim the store's staff have discriminated against them.

News reports earlier this month said sales staff were preventing Hong Kong people—but not mainland Chinese or foreigners—from taking photos of the shop windows from the sidewalk.

A rally outside the store last week drew hundreds of protesters. Several dozen people protested Sunday, taping posters on the glass saying "Apologize or get out," and placing an oversized papier-mache camera in front of the door. The shop appeared to be closed.

"You're selling a brand that people respect and want to buy but they're not living up to that" standard, said Steven Chan, a 29-year-old engineer. "They definitely need to say sorry."

People also have posted angry comments on the company's website and Facebook page.

Dolce & Gabbana said in a statement last week that it "has not taken part in any action aiming at offending the Hong Kong public."

Local newspapers published photos of sales staff at the shop trying to stop photographers from taking shots. In one case, a staff member even threatened to smash a photographer's camera if he didn't stop, one news report alleged. But D&G denied that "controversial statements" by the Hong Kong press were made by shop staff.

The protest highlights simmering resentment among local residents over the growing influence that wealthy mainland Chinese have over the city, a former British colony that has been a semiautonomous Chinese territory since 1997.

Some Hong Kongers have complained that newly wealthy Chinese mainlanders have pushed up housing prices by buying up properties for speculation. They've grumbled about tens of thousands of mainland women coming across the border to give birth, depriving local women of hospital beds in maternity wards, and even for creating shortages of essentials like baby formula.

# Nation

# Rivals say split SC conservative vote aids Romney

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** (AP)—A splintered conservative vote in South Carolina could pave the way for Mitt Romney to win this week's pivotal primary, some rivals said Sunday, acknowledging an outcome that prominent state lawmakers suggested could end the nomination fight.

"I think the only way that a Massachusetts moderate can get through South Carolina is if the vote is split," said Newt Gingrich, portraying himself as the lone conservative with a "realistic chance" of beating Romney in the first-in-the South contest.

Polls show Romney, the former Massachusetts governors who struggled to a fourth-place finish in South Carolina during his 2008 White House run, with a lead heading into Saturday's vote. The state has a large population of evangelicals and other conservative Christians, and concerns arose four years ago about his Mormon faith.

But Gingrich, Rick Santorum and Rick Perry all said Romney, after victories in Iowa and New Hampshire, continued to benefit from the fractured GOP field and the failure of social conservatives to fully coalesce around a single alternative.

"If for some reason he's not derailed here and Mitt Romney wins South Carolina ... I think it should be over," said the state's senior senator, Republican Lindsey Graham. He added, "I'd hope the party would rally around him if he did in fact win South Carolina."

Santorum said South Carolina is "not going to be the final issue" and spoke of the "need to get this eventually down to a conservative alternative" to Romney. "When we get it down to a two-person race, we have an excellent opportunity to win this race," said the former Pennsylvania senator who won the endorsement of an influential group of social conservatives and evangelical leaders Saturday in Texas.

Perry, the Texas governor, said it was "our intention" to compete in the next contest, Florida's primary Jan. 31, even if he finished last in South Carolina.

Gingrich said he would "reassess" his candidacy if he lost in South Carolina and acknowledged that a Romney victory would mean "an enormous advantage going forward."

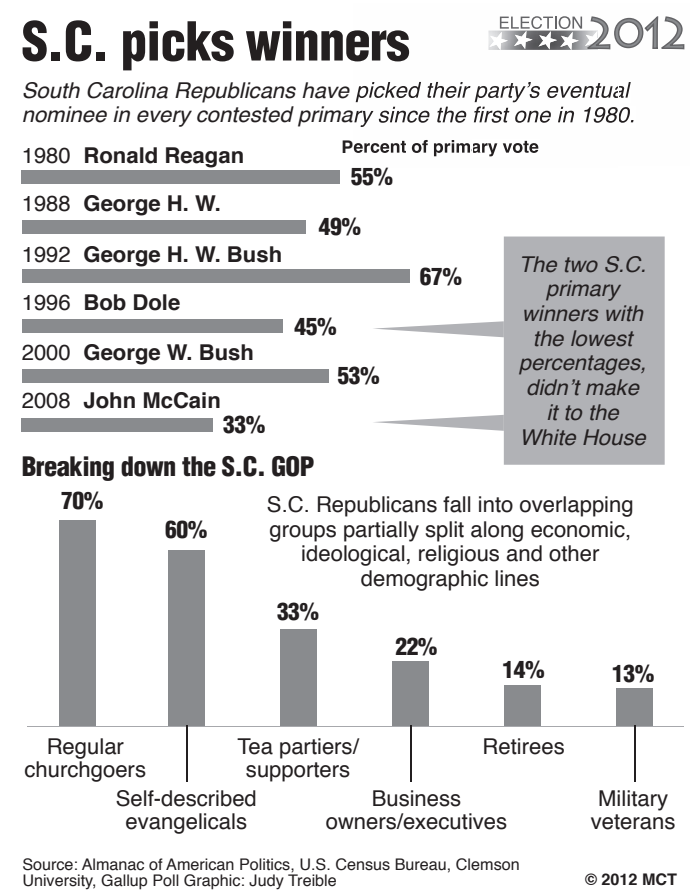
The former House speaker appealed for the support of "every conservative who wants to have a conservative nominee."

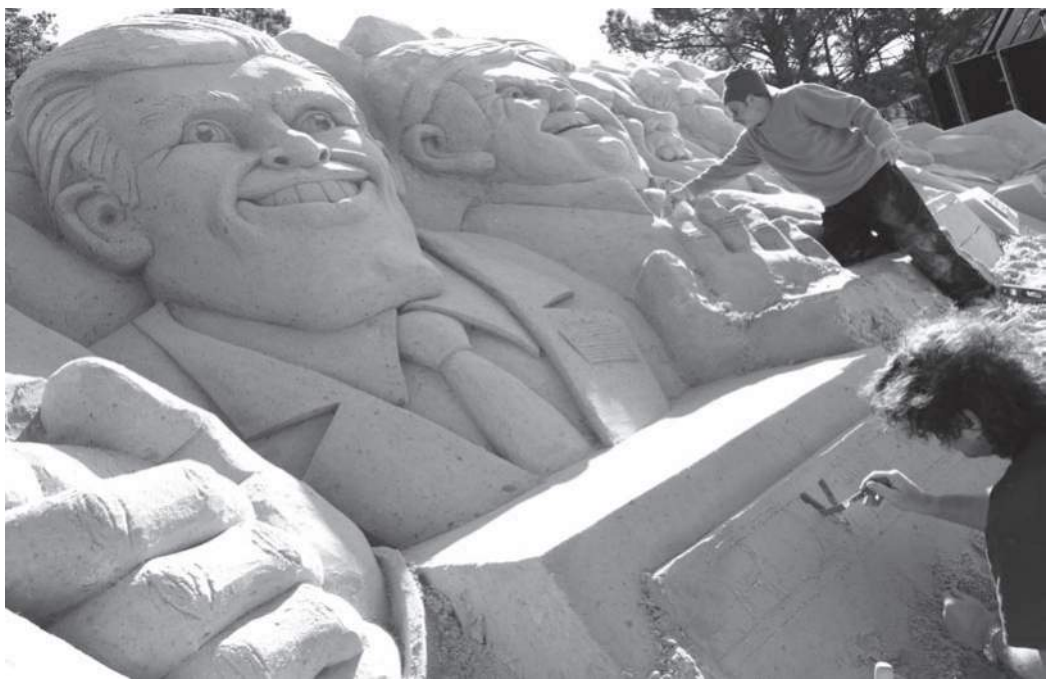
"I hope every conservative will reach the conclusion that to vote for anybody but Gingrich is, in fact, to help Romney win the nomination," he said.

To Rep. Tim Scott, R-S.C., the equation is simple: "If Romney wins South Carolina, I think the game's over. This is the last stand for many candidates."

He noted that three candidates are pursuing the evangelical vote "very strongly and without any question that works to the Romney campaign's benefit. It's hard to find a single candidate that rallies all of the Christian voters in South Carolina and therefore that splintered approach will probably have a major impact" in the primary.

Romney took a rare day off from campaigning while his opponents focused on the South Carolina coast. They also attended church services and prayer breakfasts in a state with a large population of evangelicals and other conservative Christians.


S.C. picks winners
ELECTION 2012
South Carolina Republicans have picked their party's eventual nominee in every contested primary since the first one in 1980.
Percent of primary vote
1980 Ronald Reagan 55%
1988 George H. W. 49%
1992 George H. W. Bush 67%
1996 Bob Dole 45%
2000 George W. Bush 53%
2008 John McCain 33%
The two S.C. primary winners with the lowest percentages, didn't make it to the White House
Breaking down the S.C. GOP
S.C. Republicans fall into overlapping groups partially split along economic, ideological, religious and other demographic lines
70% Regular churchgoers
60% Self-described evangelicals
33% Tea partiers/ supporters
22% Business owners/executives
14% Retirees
13% Military veterans
Source: Almanac of American Politics, U.S. Census Bureau, Clemson University, Gallup Poll Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2012 MCT



AP

Sand sculptors Fred Dobbs of Victoria, Canada, right, and Raymond Wirick of East Kennett, England, work on the sculpture of likenesses of Republican presidential candidates, from left to right, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, at the site of the Republican presidential debate in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012.

## *Jon Huntsman to quit GOP presidential race*

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Jon Huntsman will withdraw Monday from the race for the Republican presidential nomination, his campaign manager told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Campaign manager Matt David said Huntsman will announce his withdrawal at an event in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Huntsman will endorse Mitt Romney, whom he believes is the best candidate to beat President Barack Obama in November, campaign officials said.

The former Utah governor placed third in last week's New Hampshire primary despite devoting most of his campaign resources to the state. He had already acknowledged that expectations for him in South Carolina's primary this week will be "very low."

Word of the Huntsman withdrawal came on the same day The State, South Carolina's largest newspaper, endorsed him for president.

The endorsement said there were "two sensible, experienced grownups in the race," referring to Romney and Huntsman. But it said Huntsman "is more principled, has a far more impressive resume and offers a significantly more important message."

Although Huntsman was viewed as having little traction in South Carolina, his endorsement of Romney could give the former Massachusetts governor, who leads in state polls, even more of the look of inevitability.

The move comes as pressure has been increasing on Texas Gov. Rick Perry to leave the race in order to allow South Carolina's influential social conservatives to unify behind either former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum or former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Huntsman's resume suggested he could be a major contender for the GOP nomination: businessman, diplomat, governor, veteran of four presidential administrations, an expert on China and on foreign trade. With a personal fortune based on his family's global chemical company, he could be a late entry into the nomination contest without necessarily hobbling his campaign.

Yet Huntsman was almost invisible in a race often dominated by Romney, a fellow Mormon. One reason was timing. For months, Romney and other declared or expected-to-declare candidates drew media attention and wooed voters in early primary states. Huntsman, meanwhile, was half a world away, serving as ambassador to China until he resigned in late April. Nearly two more months would pass before his kickoff speech on June 22 in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty.

To distinguish his candidacy in a crowded field, Huntsman positioned himself as a tax-cutting, budget-balancing chief executive and former business executive who could rise above partisan politics.

## Perry: Marines in video are 'kids,' not criminals

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Republican presidential hopeful Rick Perry on Sunday accused the Obama administration of "over-the-top rhetoric" and "disdain for the military" in its condemnation of a video that purportedly shows four Marines urinating on corpses in Afghanistan.

Perry's comments put him at odds with Sen. John McCain, the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, who said the images could damage the war effort.

"The Marine Corps prides itself that we don't lower ourselves to the level of the enemy," McCain said when asked about Perry's position. "So it makes me sad more than anything else, because ... I can't tell you how wonderful these people (Marines) are. And it hurts their reputation and their image."

No one has been charged in the case, but officials in the U.S. and abroad have called for swift punishment of the four Marines. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said last week that he worried the video could be used by the Taliban to undermine peace talks.

A military criminal investigation and an internal Marine Corps review are under way. The Geneva Conventions forbid the desecration of the dead.

Texas Gov. Perry said the Marines involved should be reprimanded but not prosecuted on criminal charges.

"Obviously, 18-, 19-year-old kids make stupid mistakes all too often. And that's what's occurred here," Perry told CNN's "State of the Union."

He later added: "What's really disturbing to me is the kind of over-the-top rhetoric from this administration and their disdain for the military."

Later appearing on the same show, McCain said he disagreed.

"We're trying to win the hearts and minds" of the Afghanistan population, he said. "And when something like that comes up, it obviously harms that ability."

## ACROSS THE NATION

### FBI seeks help finding Montana teacher's body

**SIDNEY, Mont.** (AP)—The FBI is asking property owners in parts of North Dakota and Montana to check vacant farmsteads for signs of disturbed soil where the agency says a missing Montana teacher might be buried. Earlier Sunday, authorities released the names of two Parachute, Colo., men being held in a North Dakota jail in connection with the Jan. 7 disappearance of 43-year-old Sherry Arnold of Sidney, Mont. The FBI issued a statement late Sunday saying Arnold's body might be buried in an area with a line of mature or rotted trees, and the surrounding grass might be matted.

### Tanker carrying fuel arrives at iced-in AK town

**NOME, Alaska** (AP)—Crews worked to build a path Sunday over a half-mile of Bering Sea ice for the final leg of a Russian tanker's mission to deliver fuel to a town isolated amid one of the most severe Alaska winters in decades. The tanker was moored roughly a half-mile from Nome's harbor after a Coast Guard cutter cleared a path for it through hundreds of miles of a slow journey stalled by thick ice and strong ocean currents. The tanker got into position Saturday night, and ice disturbed by its journey had to freeze again so workers could create some sort of roadway to lay a hose that will transfer 1.3 million gallons of fuel from the tanker to the harbor in Nome.

### Terminally ill Ohioan dies on day of son's funeral

**LOGAN, Ohio** (AP)—A terminally ill woman has died days after her husband fatally shot their adult son and her two sisters in front of her at a southeastern Ohio home and then killed himself. Authorities said the shootings last Monday in rural Logan apparently stemmed from family tensions over the care of the cancer-stricken woman, 59-year-old Darlene Gilkey. She was not hurt in the shootings and was taken to a medical facility afterward. Her daughter-in-law, Heather Sowers, said Gilkey died Saturday, hours before the funeral for her 38-year-old son, Leroy Gilkey of Columbus.

# Asia

# Pakistani government faces critical day in court

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—A political crisis gripping Pakistan could take a decisive turn Monday when its embattled government appears before the Supreme Court, which is ordering it to reopen a stalled graft probe against the president or face dismissal.

The crisis comes at a time of continuing strikes by presumed religious extremists who want to install a hard-line Islamist government in the nuclear-armed nation. On Sunday, a bomb blast in eastern Pakistan killed 14 people in a Shiite religious procession.

The court hearing represents one front in what amounts to an assault on the government by the powerful military, opposition politicians and the Supreme Court. The showdown has all but paralyzed decision making, and threatens fresh turmoil just as the U.S. wants Islamabad's help in negotiating an end to the war with the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan.

The challenges facing the nuclear-armed nation are underscored by a bomb that kills 13 at a Shiite procession.

The fault line is the same one that has plagued Pakistan since its creation in 1947: an army that can't stomach taking orders from elected politicians, and which has three times seized power in coups. President Asif Ali Zardari's government has given the generals control over foreign and security policy, but the civilian leadership and the top brass have never seen eye-to-eye since Zardari took office in 2008.

Tensions spiked last week over an unsigned memo delivered to Washington last year offering the U.S. a raft of favorable security policies in exchange for its help in thwarting a supposed army coup. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani criticized the army for cooperating with a Supreme Court probe into the affair, and has said the standoff is nothing less than a choice between "democracy and dictatorship."

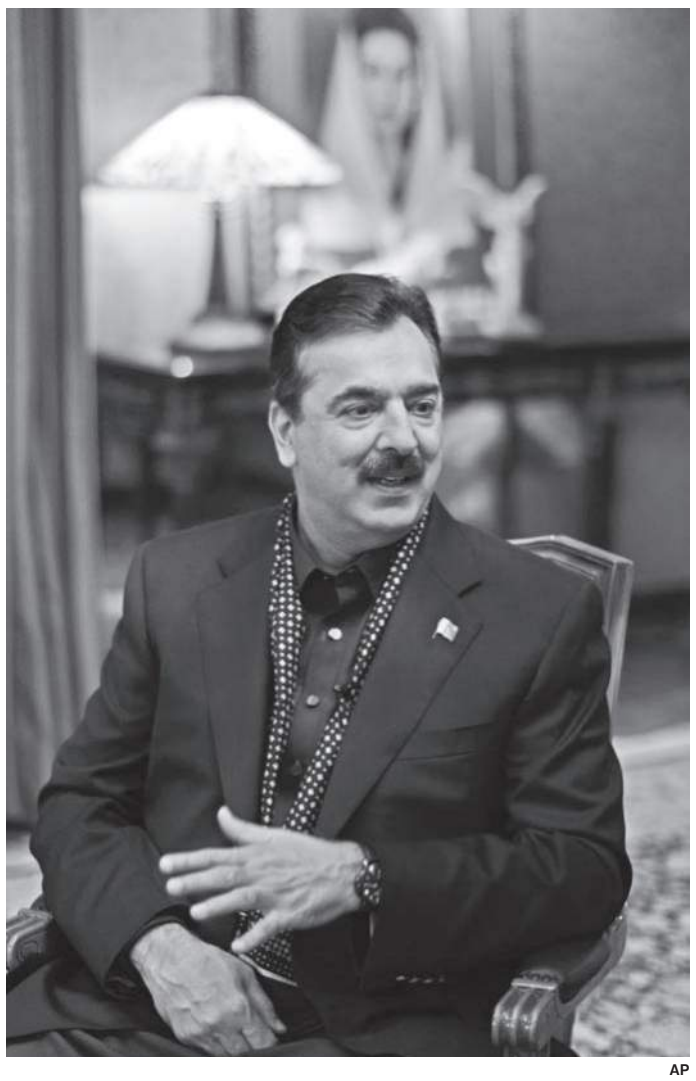
Gilani's comments followed a warning from the generals—who were infuriated by the memo—of possible "grievous consequences" ahead.

While the army appears to have little stomach for a coup, government supporters and many independent analysts say the military could be happy to watch the Supreme Court bring down the government for it. The court is a power center in its own right in Pakistan, and has legitimized past military takeovers.

Gilani insisted Sunday the government would see out its term in office, scheduled to end in 2013.

"The parliament was elected for five years and it should complete its term," he told reporters.

Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court has been pressing for investigations into allegations of corruption against Zardari dating back to before his time in office. He and other leading politicians had been protected by a politically inspired amnesty agreed to in 2008 that the court struck down in 2009, leaving him vulnerable.



AP

In this Monday, Dec. 5, 2011 photo, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani gestures during an interview with the Associated Press at his residence in Lahore, Pakistan.

The government has so far refused to comply, arguing the president has immunity.

Last week, the court threatened to dismiss Zardari and Gilani if they continue to ignore its demands. It ordered government representatives to appear in court Monday to explain what they planned to do. A senior member of Zardari's Pakistan Peoples Party said this week the government would try to get more time from the court, but it's unclear whether the bench is in a patient mood.

Gilani has called for a "show of confidence" vote in parliament Monday to support of the government, which could provide a symbolic boost to the embattled prime minister.

The court has zeroed in on one corruption investigation taken up by the Swiss government against Zardari that was halted in 2008 when Pakistani prosecutors, acting on the amnesty, told Swiss authorities to drop the case. The court has now ordered the government to contact Swiss authorities to reopen the probe.

Despite the squeeze by the court and the army, many Pakistani analysts say that early elections may yet take the steam out of the assault. Peoples party members privately say such polls are possible, but not until after March, when Senate elections expected to return the party a majority in the upper house are due.

"Once the early polls are announced everything will calm down," said Fakruddin Ebrahim, a former Supreme Court justice and attorney general.

The government is also under fire as a result of the memo sent to Washington.

A separate Supreme Court commission is investigating the note, which some in the media have dubbed "treasonous." Pakistan's envoy to America, Husain Haqqani, was alleged to have masterminded the memo. He resigned late last year, seeking to limit its fallout. If the commission states Zardari knew about the memo, it could open up another avenue for his foes to challenge his rule.

Meanwhile, the government is hard pressed to stem a wave of violence by the Taliban and other groups which have carried out hundreds of bombings over the last five years that have killed thousands of Pakistani troops and civilians.

There was no claim of responsibility for Sunday's bombing that killed 14 people during a Shiite observance in Punjab province in the east.

Hundreds of Pakistani Shiites gathered in the town of Khanpur for a traditional procession to mark the end of 40 days of mourning following the anniversary of the death of Imam Hussein, a revered seventh-century figure.

The explosion went off as the mourners left a mosque, said District Police Chief Sohail Chatta. The bomb appeared to have been planted ahead of time in the path of the procession, he said.

The Pakistani Taliban and other Sunni extremist groups have in the past claimed responsibility for the bombings of Shiite religious sites and ceremonies. Many Sunni extremists in Pakistan regard Shiites as heretics.

## ASIA BRIEFS

### 84-year-old Thai king treated for abdominal pain

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Thailand's 84-year-old king has been treated with intravenous antibiotics after experiencing abdominal pain. The Royal Household Bureau says in a statement that King Bhumipol Adulyadej "experienced some indigestion" Saturday and was breathing faster than normal. The statement says that doctors detected pain in his lower left abdomen and that an X-ray showed a digestive condition common in older people, known as diverticulitis. After injecting antibiotics, the king's breathing returned to normal Sunday and he was able to eat "easily digestible food."

### Soldier faces hearing at Afghan base over suicide

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—An American soldier charged with abuse that led to the suicide of a 19-year-old fellow soldier in Afghanistan is facing a preliminary hearing Sunday on a base in the country, the U.S. military said. Spc. Ryan J. Offutt is charged with offenses including maltreatment, assault, involuntary manslaughter and negligent homicide in the death of Pvt. Danny Chen, the military said in a statement. Offutt is one of eight infantrymen charged in connection with the suicide. Chen shot himself in a guardhouse Oct. 3 in Afghanistan after what investigators say were weeks of racial slurs, humiliation and physical abuse.

### Central Asia's largest mosque ravaged by fire

**ASTANA, Kazakhstan** (AP)—Emergency officials say at least one person has died in a fire at the largest mosque in Central Asia, in the capital of Kazakhstan. The Emergency Situations Ministry said Sunday's fire spread over an area of 800 square meters (8,600 square feet) inside the Khazret Sultan mosque in Astana. Laborers at the site of the 17,500 square-meter (188,000 square-foot) mosque, which was still under construction, said they heard screams from a man trapped inside the building.

# Pakistan Taliban leader reported dead in US strike

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—Intercepted militant radio communications indicate the leader of the Pakistani Taliban may have been killed in a recent U.S. drone strike, Pakistani intelligence officials said Sunday. A Taliban official denied that.

The report coincided with sectarian violence—a bomb blast in eastern Pakistan that killed 14 people in a Shiite religious procession.

The claim that the Pakistani Taliban chief was killed came from officials who said they intercepted a number of Taliban radio conversations. In about a half a dozen intercepts, the militants discussed whether their chief, Hakimullah Mehsud, was killed on Jan. 12 in the North Waziristan tribal area. Some militants confirmed Mehsud was dead, and one criticized others for talking about the issue over the radio.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters. Pakistani Taliban spokesman Asimullah Mehsud denied the group's leader was killed and said he was not in the area where the drone strike occurred.

In early 2010, both Pakistani and American officials said they believed a missile strike had killed Hakimullah Mehsud along the border of North and South Waziristan. They were proved wrong when videos appeared showing him still alive.

The Pakistani Taliban is linked to attacks against U.S. targets. They trained the Pakistani-American who tried to detonate a car bomb in New York City's Times Square in 2010 and is tied to a suicide bombing that killed seven CIA agents at an Afghan base in 2009.

There was no claim of responsibility for Sunday's bombing that killed 14 people during a Shiite observance in Punjab province in the east—the latest of a series of sectarian attacks in volatile Pakistan.

Hundreds of Pakistani Shiites gathered in the town of Khanpur in Punjab province for a traditional procession to mark the end of 40 days of mourning following the anniversary of the death of Imam Hussein, a revered seventh-century figure.

The explosion went off as the mourners left a mosque, said District Police Chief Sohail Chatta. The bomb appeared to have been planted ahead of time in the path of the procession, he said.

# PH seeks Asian summit on disputed islands

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippines has urged the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to hold a summit of China and five other Asian claimants to try to resolve long-simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said Sunday he asked his ASEAN counterparts during an annual meeting in Cambodia last week to back the Philippines' call for the 10-member bloc to organize such a summit "as soon as possible." Manila is ready to host the unprecedented meeting, he said.

The Philippines and fellow ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam have overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea's Spratly Islands, which are believed to have undersea deposits of oil and gas. The islands, which are also claimed by China and Taiwan, straddle busy sea lanes and rich fishing grounds.

Many fear the disputes could be Asia's next flash point for armed conflict.

The Philippines last year proposed segregating non-disputed Spratly territories from disputed ones, which it said could be turned into common areas where China and other claimants could undertake joint activities such as search and rescue drills to build trust while the disputes continue.

A resolution of the conflicts should be based on internationally accepted rules such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, del Rosario said.

"ASEAN is at a critical juncture of playing a momentous role for the resolution of the disputes," del Rosario said.

China has frowned on any solution involving other countries, specially non-claimants like the United States, which has declared that a peaceful resolution of the South China Sea disputes is in its national interest. Beijing wants to negotiate directly with each claimant.

# World

# Captain's conduct blasted as divers find more dead

AP

Firefighters on a dinghy look at a rock emerging from the side of the luxury cruise ship Costa Concordia, the day after it ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012.

**GIGLIO, Italy** (AP)—Maritime authorities, passengers and mounting evidence pointed Sunday toward the captain of a cruise liner that ran aground and capsized off the Tuscan coast, amid accusations that he abandoned ship before everyone was safely evacuated and was showing off when he steered the vessel far too close to shore.

Divers searching the murky depths of the partially submerged *Costa Concordia* found the bodies of two elderly men still in their life jackets, bringing the confirmed death toll to five. At least 15 people were still missing, including two Americans.

The recovered bodies were discovered at an emergency gathering point near the restaurant where many of the 4,200 on board were dining when the luxury liner struck rocks or a reef off the tiny island of Giglio. The Italian news agency ANSA reported the dead were an Italian and a Spaniard.

Still, there were glimmers of hope: The rescue of three survivors—a young South Korean couple on their honeymoon and a crew member brought to shore in a dramatic airlift some 36 hours after the grounding late Friday. Meanwhile, attention focused on the captain, who was spotted by Coast Guard officials and passengers fleeing the scene even as the chaotic and terrifying evacuation was under way.

The ship's Italian owner, a subsidiary of Carnival Cruise lines, issued a statement late Sunday saying there appeared to be "significant human error" on the part of the captain, Francesco Schettino, "which resulted in these grave consequences."

Authorities were holding Schettino for suspected manslaughter and a prosecutor confirmed Sunday they were also investigating allegations the captain abandoned the stricken liner before all the passengers had escaped. According to the Italian navigation code, a captain who abandons a ship in danger can face up to 12 years in prison.

A French couple who boarded the Concordia in Marseille, Ophelie Gondelle and David Du Pays, told the Associated Press they saw the captain in a lifeboat, covered by a blanket, well before all the passengers were off the ship.

"The commander left before and was on the dock before everyone was off," said Gondelle, 28, a French military officer.

"Normally the commander should only leave at the end," said Du Pays, a police officer who said he helped an injured passenger to a rescue boat. "I did what I could."

Coast Guard officers later spotted Schettino on land as the evacuation unfolded. The officers urged him to return to his ship and honor his duty to stay aboard until everyone was safely off the vessel, but he ignored them, Coast Guard Cmdr. Francesco Paolillo said.

Schettino insisted he didn't leave the liner early, telling Mediaset television that he had done everything he could to save lives. "We were the last ones to leave the ship," he said.

Questions also swirled about why the ship had navigated so close to the dangerous reefs and rocks that jut off Giglio's eastern coast, amid suspicions the captain may have ventured too close while carrying out a maneuver to entertain tourists on the island.

The ship's owner, Costa Crociere SpA, issued a statement late Sunday saying it was working with investigators to determine "precisely what went wrong aboard the Costa Concordia."

"While the investigation is ongoing, preliminary indications are that there may have been significant human error on the part of the ship's master, Captain Francesco Schettino, which resulted in these grave consequences," the statement said. "The route of the vessel appears to have been too close to the shore, and the captain's judgment in handling the emergency appears to have not followed standard Costa procedures." Residents of Giglio said they had never seen the Costa come so close to the dangerous "Le Scole" reef area.

"This was too close, too close," said Italo Arienti, a 54-year-old sailor who has worked on the Maregigilo ferry between Giglio and the mainland for more than a decade. Pointing to a nautical map, he drew his finger along the path the ship usually takes and the jarring one close to shore that it followed Friday.

The ship was a mere 150 yard (meters) from shore at the time of the grounding, ANSA quoted Grosseto prosecutor Francesco Verusio as saying.

Schettino insisted he was twice as far out and said the ship ran aground because the rocks weren't marked on his nautical charts.

However, he did concede he was maneuvering the ship in "touristic navigation"—implying a route that was a deviation from the norm and designed to entertain the tourists.

# UN chief says Syrian president must stop violence

**BEIRUT** (AP)—The U.N. chief demanded Sunday that Syria's president stop killing his own people and said the "old order" of one-man rule and family dynasties is over in the Middle East on a day when activists said 27 people died.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, delivering the keynote address at a conference in Beirut on democracy in the Arab world, said the revolutions of the Arab Spring show people will no longer accept tyranny.

"Today, I say again to President (Bashar) Assad of Syria: Stop the violence. Stop killing your people," Ban said.

Ban has been highly critical of the Assad government's deadly crackdown on civilian protesters since the killings began—unlike the U.N. Security Council. That body is deeply divided. The U.S. and European nations demand strong condemnation and possible sanctions against Assad, but Russia and China are opposed.

Ban's speech Sunday was his toughest against the continued survival of authoritarian regimes in the face of the growing international clamor for democracy.

Thousands of people have been killed in the government's crackdown on a 10-month-old uprising, which has turned increasingly militarized in recent months with a growing risk of civil war.

Syria agreed last month to an Arab League plan that calls for a halt to the crackdown, the withdrawal of heavy weaponry, such as tanks, from cities, the release of all political prisoners, and allowing foreign journalists and human rights workers in. About 200 Arab League observers are working in Syria to verify whether the government is abiding by its agreement to end the military crackdown on dissent.

Observers visited the coastal city of Banias and the restive town of Maaret al-Numan in northern Syria Sunday, where they were met with thousands of anti-Assad protesters chanting for his downfall.

Amateur video posted by activists on the Internet showed the monitors watching and filming from a balcony as a large protest unfolded on the streets below. "Victory for our revolution!" the protesters shouted.

The monitors also visited the Damascus suburb of Zabadani, which activists say has come under an intense crackdown in the past few days.

# Egypt's transition to democracy grows more messy

**CAIRO** (AP)—Reform leader Mohammed ElBaradei's surprise pullout from the presidential race has laid bare the messiness of Egypt's transition to democracy with less than six months left for the ruling generals to hand over power.

In less than two weeks on Jan. 25, Egyptians will mark a year since the start of the popular uprising that forced Hosni Mubarak out of office. But there is no longer much talk about the revolution's lofty goals of bringing democracy, freedom and social justice.

Instead, the buzz now is about new alliances that could allow the ruling military to maintain its long-standing domination over government and Islamists to flex their muscles after their big victory in parliamentary elections.

ElBaradei's announcement Saturday that he would not run for president dealt another severe blow to the liberal and leftist groups behind the fall of Mubarak after their defeat at the ballots and the military's escalating crackdown on the movement. ElBaradei said a fair election will be impossible under the military's tight grip.

"We feel that elections now are not the best framework toward democratic rule," prominent activist Shady el-Ghazaly Harb said about the presidential vote that the ruling military has promised will take place by the end of June.

The young revolutionaries who engineered Mubarak's ouster on February 11 have since been divided and embroiled in an increasingly bitter dispute with the ruling generals over their handling of the transition, the killing of scores of protesters by troops, human rights violations and the trial of thousands of civilians before military tribunals.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Gunmen storm Iraq compound, kill 7 police

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Iraqi security forces on Sunday battled gunmen who detonated a car bomb before blasting their way into a government compound and killing seven policemen in a one-time Sunni insurgent hotbed, police and local government officials said. The three-hour standoff between Shiite-dominated security forces and suspected Sunni insurgents in the Anbar province capital of Ramadi, 70 miles (115 kilometers) west of Baghdad, marked the first serious gunbattle for Iraqi forces against insurgents without American backup since the U.S. military completed its withdrawal last month.

### Late-night talks end as Nigeria fuel strike looms

**ABUJA, Nigeria** (AP)—Late-night negotiations between union officials and President Goodluck Jonathan have ended without any indication of an agreement to end a crippling nationwide strike over high fuel costs in Africa's most populous country. Government and union officials left the meeting late Sunday night without commenting on the talks to reporters. President Goodluck Jonathan had been scheduled to give a speech at 9 p.m. local time (2000 GMT) on state-run television, but the scheduled time passed without any message.

### Russian space probe crashes into Pacific

**MOSCOW** (AP)—A Russian space probe designed to boost the nation's pride on a bold mission to a moon of Mars came down in flames Sunday, showering fragments into the south Pacific west of Chile's coast, officials said. Pieces from the Phobos-Ground, which had become stuck in Earth's orbit, landed in water 1,250 kilometers (775 miles) west of Wellington Island in Chile's south, the Russian military Air and Space Defense Forces said in a statement carried by the country's news agencies.

# Focus

AP

In this Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 photo, Rev. Patrick Lagges stands in front of a statue of Saint Francis in Chicago. Lagges, a canon lawyer for three decades in the Catholic Church, helped lead the canon law society workshop last year.

## More US Catholics take complaints to church court

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Parents upset by the admission policy at a parochial school. Clergy and parishioners at odds over use of their building. A priest resisting a transfer to another parish.

It was once assumed that disagreements like these in the Roman Catholic Church would end one way: with the highest-ranking cleric getting the last word.

But that outcome is no longer a given as Catholics, emboldened following the clergy abuse scandals that erupted a decade ago this month, have sought another avenue of redress.

In recent years, clergy and lay people in the United States have increasingly turned to the church's internal legal system to challenge a bishop's or pastor's decision about even the most workaday issues in Catholic life, according to canon lawyers in academia, dioceses and in private practice. Sometimes, the challengers even win.

In one example cited by veteran canon lawyers, parishioners wanted to bar musical performances in their church that weren't liturgical. Their priest had been renting space to a local band. In another case, a nun filed a petition after a religious superior disclosed the nun's medical information to others—a potential violation of privacy. Regarding bishops' often contentious decisions to close parishes, the liberal reform group FutureChurch posts a guide on its website called "Canonical Appeals for Dummies" on seeking Vatican intervention to stay open.

The reasons for the uptick are complex and reach back decades, involving changes in the church and broader society. Canon lawyers say the American concern for individual freedoms likely has played a role. So has the explosion of information on the Internet. But the change is also an unexpected consequence of the clergy molestation crisis, with the scandal exerting an influence far beyond cases that directly involve abusers.

"The focus on canon law and penal procedures in the case of sexual misconduct has made people aware that the church has a law system, it can work and people can take advantage of it," said Michael Ritty, founder of Canon Law Professionals, a private practice in Feura Bush, N.Y. "For so long, especially in the United States, many of the lay people did not speak up and did not know how to speak up, and many people in the hierarchy did not know how to accept things when people did speak up. I think that is changing."

No one knows the exact number of formal petitions before tribunals or agencies at the Vatican, or before church officials in the U.S. or in any country. The cases are guarded by pontifical secrecy, which bars advocates, judges and other parties from revealing details of the proceedings.

Still, U.S. canon lawyers say they have seen more widespread use of church law to resolve disputes.

Edward Peters, a canon lawyer and professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, said the increase in canonical litigation is "indisputable."

The Canon Law Society of America, a professional group for church lawyers, held a workshop on the trend called "Hierarchical Recourse: Can't We All Just Get Along?" Ritty founded his private practice in 2000 to keep active after he retired and now employs three other canon lawyers. Abuse cases are a significant part of his work, along with marriage annulments, but Ritty also has many cases relating to everyday church issues, such as use of money.

"Most of us, when we were training, were preparing for marriage tribunals, marriage annulments," said Monsignor Patrick Lagges of Chicago, a canon lawyer for three decades who helped lead the canon law society workshop last year. "Now there's such a broad range of things. It's a much broader field."

Until recently, the only canon law most American Catholics knew related to annulments, church declarations that a marriage was never valid. (For years, the majority of annulment petitions to the Vatican have come from the United States.) The first complete code of canon law, published in 1917, was also the first to be translated from the Latin into English. Even then, the system remained obscure, considered the province of an educated clergy-elite who were fluent in Latin and could quote directly from centuries-old papal decrees.

The Second Vatican Council, the 1960s meetings that ushered in modernizing reforms, aimed to make canon law more accessible. A revised legal code was eventually issued in 1983 by Pope John Paul II that placed new emphasis on the rights and obligations of all Catholics, lay and clergy. "The Christian faithful can legitimately vindicate and defend the rights which they possess in the Church in the competent ecclesiastical forum according to the norm of law," canon 221:1 says.

Yet, no flurry of canonical petitions followed.

A few prominent cases played out in public. The ex-wife of former Massachusetts Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, son of Robert F. Kennedy, wrote a book about her appeal to reverse the church decision to annul their marriage of a dozen years. The Vatican took about a decade to decide the case, but ruled in her favor. In the 1990s, some parishioners appealed Cardinal Joseph Bernardin's decision to close their Chicago church. They succeeded in a phase of the appeal, but the building was ultimately shut down. Still, the numbers of cases remained small.

Then, 10 years ago, a crisis unfolded that became the worst in U.S. church history.

The Boston Globe persuaded a Massachusetts judge to unseal documents that showed the Archdiocese of Boston kept clergy who had molested children in parishes without warning parents or police. The outrage that the news reports generated spread nationwide.

Soon, every American bishop was pressured to disclose diocesan records on abusive clergy. In June, beleaguered church leaders gathered in Dallas, trailed by more than 750 reporters, to adopt a new child protection policy and discipline plan for guilty priests.

Suddenly, canon law was front-page news.

In many cases, the church's internal legal system was the only recourse for church officials who wanted to remove clergy from public ministry or the priesthood. Most victims came forward decades after they had been molested, long after the statute of limitations for criminal prosecution in civil court had passed. So over several months, American bishops began a closely watched negotiation with Vatican officials over how they could change church law to streamline the removal of guilty priests. Canonical due process rights for clergy emerged as a key issue. In a public meeting that November, bishops discussed plans for new church tribunals for accused priests who said they were innocent and would not leave ministry.

Bishops spent hundreds of millions of dollars on child protection programs and more on settlements with victims. But the damage was done. Trust in the bishops' judgment plummeted. So, when bishops in some dioceses announced the next round of parish closures, part of a consolidation that started years ago, angry parishioners didn't only protest and pray. They also hired canon lawyers.

"We just Googled it and got some information about who was available," said Patricia Schulte-Singleton, a 52-year-old parishioner who has helped coordinate resistance to church closures, including her own St. Patrick Catholic Church, throughout the Diocese of Cleveland. They hired a nun who was a canonist in Rhode Island.

Layman Peter Borre spearheaded a movement of canon law challenges to church closures in the Archdiocese of Boston where he lives. A semi-retired energy consultant who grew up in Italy and studied Latin in school, he began flying regularly to Rome to meet with a canon lawyer experienced in the Vatican court system.

Word of Borre's effort spread and parishioners in other dioceses contacted him about how they could petition to stay open. He estimates that two dozen appeals over the issue are currently before the Holy See. Some of the parishes in New York State, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, have won partial victories so far, keeping their cases alive at the Vatican, in what some canon lawyers described as landmark victories.

"The secular courts, in the United States at least, hate like hell to get between the flock and the bishops. They just won't touch it, " Borre said. "So by default, we're left with canon law."

Rejecting the idea that the church has entered a new age of litigiousness. Peters said petitions challenging decisions by bishops and other church officials have grown from a "tiny" to a "small" share of the church's total canonical actions. Still, the increase comes at a sensitive time, while bishops struggle to reassert their authority as teachers and leaders, and the church, like the culture around it, is more polarized.

"A lot of times you're delivering messages that maybe the bishops doesn't want to hear," Lagges said. "You have to go in and tell the bishop, `You can't do this.' Bishops don't like to hear that."

# Overdrive

Hyundai Motor America has totally revamped its most base car, and the Accent now feels—and looks—like a whole new vehicle.

MCT

## Hyundai Accent offers inexpensive style

BY MATT DEGEN
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

When reviewing the cheapest new car in America, the Nissan Versa sedan, I noticed how much "economy" cars have changed in the past several years. Nowadays, driving such a car isn't the equivalent of cramming yourself into a shoebox or struggling to commute amid accommodations that feel as flimsy as one.

Shop wisely, and you can find a small car that offers a lot of bang for the buck. Even better news for those on a budget but who still consider themselves automotive appreciators: It's possible to find such a car that offers a degree of fun.

The Hyundai Accent is just that.

Like its slightly larger brother the Elantra, it's amazing what a difference a model year can make. Like that other subcompact, Hyundai has totally revamped its most base car, and the Accent now feels—and looks—like a whole new vehicle.

The last generation of this model appeared outdated even when new. But behold: In its new form, it now pops. With its "fluidic" design, the 2012-model Accent fits in handsomely in family photos underneath the Elantra and Sonata.

And like those bigger siblings, the Accent's good qualities are more than skin-deep. (If you're still wary about whether Hyundai can compete with the established Japanese brands, take any of these for a spin.)

Like the Versa and Ford Fiesta, the Accent comes in the form of a hatchback or sedan, like the kind I drove over a week. Unlike the Nissan, the Accent actually provides a modicum of driving pleasure.

The Accent is far from an asphalt-burner, as one would expect from a car whose base price is just under $15,000. But its all-new 138-horsepower, direct-injection 1.6-liter four-cylinder provided more oomph than I expected, and even when linked to an optional six-speed automatic transmission like mine, felt zippy enough. That pony count, by the way, is 18 more than the Fiesta and 29 better than the Versa.

Inside, there is no belying that this car is at the low-end of the automotive spectrum. Whereas the Elantra can be had with options such as navigation and even front and rear heated seats, the Accent is largely frill-free, though still not as spartan as the Versa. Plastics are hard and buttons are rather plain. Only those enamored of glowing blue illumination will be immensely impressed here.

Yet it all works, and well. Except for a nav system and possibly a telescoping steering wheel, I didn't feel like I was missing a whole lot. When equipped with the premium package ($1,300), it even includes a Bluetooth hands-free phone system and 16-inch alloy wheels.

All said and done, my test version came in at an estimated $17,255, which is within $100 of the Versa I recently tested whose only redeeming traits were fuel economy and roominess.

For what it is, the Accent's ride is good. Everywhere I took it, including on multiple freeways, the car felt composed and relatively energetic with crisp shifts. And at a diminutive 172 inches long (162 for the hatchback) the Accent is a snap to park.

Another bright spot for this Hyundai, like I've seen with other vehicles from the manufacturer, is its fuel economy. The Accent got blessed by the EPA with that most magical of numbers: 40. Keep in mind, that 40 mpg number is for highway driving, and the EPA's estimates are notoriously optimistic. Yet in mixed driving over a week, I averaged 33 mpg—still commendable, though 5 less than I got in the Versa.

With this remodel and the ditching of a three-door version, the Accent is no longer the cheapest new car in America, but it's still on the very low end of what you can pay for one. And unlike the Versa, you don't have to feel like you're totally sacrificing in order to save money in initial costs and those for fuel down the road.

The revamped Accent is a vehicle that's easy to like, a four-wheel bargain dressed in a pleasing if not designer suit. The fact that it offers some zippiness in addition to Hyundai's standard 10-year, 100,000-mile warranty on the powertrain make it appear all that much better for those looking to get more car for less coin.

This car also shows how far Hyundai has come since it started selling cars in the U.S. some 25 years ago. The Accent is the automaker's cheapest car, and it doesn't feel, well, cheap.

### NUTS & BOLTS

**Type:** Five-passenger, front-wheel-drive sedan or hatchback
**Engine:** 1.6-liter four cylinder
**Total power:** 138 horsepower, 123 lb.-ft torque
**Fuel economy rating:** 30 mpg city/40 highway
**Base price, with destination:** $14,955
**Price as equipped, est.:** $17,255
**The good:** Value, fuel economy, transmission, power
**The bad:** Plastic, rather plain interior; tight rear seat

## UNDER THE HOOD

# False alarms point to bad switch

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**QUESTION: I am having a problem with my 2002 Ford Explorer anti-theft system going off by itself all the time. Do you have any recommendations on how to fix this?**
**—Jeff Sanchez**

**ANSWER:** Let's see if we can get you out of the doghouse with your neighbors. Your Explorer has two anti-theft systems. The passive anti-theft system, or PATS, uses a transponder ignition key to deny engine function if the appropriate key isn't used, and there's also a perimeter anti-theft system which monitors door, hood and back hatch position while parked. Your symptom indicates a fault in the perimeter system.

In a follow-up message, you indicated the antitheft system arms and disarms properly. This can be done by pressing a door-lock button upon departure and using the key to open the door from the outside. The remote key fob and door keypad, if you have one, can also arm and disarm the system. The reason I mentioned these is it's always a good idea to begin diagnosis by knowing what does work properly, and successful arming indicates there isn't a continuously occurring fault.

The recommended diagnostic approach for an anti theft system fault is to connect a manufacturer specified or competent aftermarket scan tool to the vehicle and check for successful module to module communication and body system diagnostic trouble codes. The Explorer's on-board diagnostics are really smart, with monitoring of all the perimeter system inputs and some outputs for rationality. My concern is that you have an intermittent problem while parked and the diagnostics are oriented towards continual irrational inputs with key-on, so this check may prove unfruitful.

The most likely cause of a false alarm condition is a flaky door, hood, hatch or hatch glass ajar switch. These are normally closed grounding switches, which open a circuit when a particular door, or the hood or hatch is ajar. I believe it's designed this way to detect tampering, but the downside is a connection fault—the most common of all electrical problems—in any of the switch circuits or a dirty switch that results in an ajar message being delivered to the control unit.

Let's try to tease the system into a false alarm. While armed, try applying various applications of force—pushing and pulling continuously, then wiggling—to each door, the hood, hatch, and hatch glass. With luck, you may trigger the alarm, indicating which of the switches is the culprit. If this doesn't work, try doing this again under similar conditions to other false alarms, in terms of ambient temperature, humidity, etc.

As a last resort, I looked for a way to disable the perimeter anti-theft system, but it's firmly integrated with other desired body functions you won't want to do without. Another desperation ploy is to access and ground each ajar switch connection, one by one, checking to see when the fault no longer occurs. Rather than simple pin switches, the Explorer's ajar switches are piggybacked atop each latch, making them tougher to get to. Begin with the hatch and glass switches.

*Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.*

# Life & Style

## Towering legend, flawed man? King's image evolving

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—On the National Mall in Washington, Martin Luther King Jr. is a towering, heroic figure carved in stone. On the Broadway stage, he's a living, breathing man who chain smokes, sips liquor and occasionally curses.

As Americans honor King's memory 44 years after he was assassinated, the image of the slain civil rights leader is evolving.

### THE MEMORIAL

The new King memorial, which opened in August in the nation's capital, celebrates the ideals King espoused. Quotations from his speeches and writings conjure memories of his message, and a 30-foot-tall sculpture depicts King emerging as a "stone of hope" from a "mountain of despair," a design inspired by a line of his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Some gaze upon this figure in silence. Some smile and pull out cell phone cameras. Others chat about how closely the statue resembles King. And some are moved to tears.

"Just all that this man did so that we could do anything and be anything," said Brandolyn Brown, 26, of Cheraw, S.C., who visited the memorial Saturday with her aunt and cousin.

"I know it took a lot more than him to get to where we are, but he was a big part of the movement."

Brown's aunt, Gloria Drake, 60, of Cheraw, S.C., said she remembers King almost as though he was Moses leading his people to the promised land, even when there were so many reasons to doubt things would get better in an era of segregated buses, schools and lunch counters.

"It was really just hostile," she said. "... And then we had a man that comes to tell us things are going to be better."

"Don't be mad, don't be angry," she recalled King's message. "Just come together in peace."

They said King's lasting legacy is the reality of equality and now having a black president. Drake said President Barack Obama reminds her of King with his "calmness" even in the face of anger.

Christine Redman, 37, visited the memorial with her husband, James Redman, 40, and their young son and daughter. She said they also feel a personal connection to King.

"We're a mixed family, and we know that without a lot of the trials that he went through to help end segregation and help the races to become one, we would not be able to have the freedoms to love who we want to love and be accepted in the world," she said.

Her son, 8-year-old Tyler, echoed his mom: "And be who we want to be."

The family tries to celebrate King's birthday by finding a way to serve others, they said. They were thinking about volunteering at a food pantry or donating toys for needy kids. When he thinks of King, James Redman said he thinks of hope. Still, he said, King's legacy is lost on many. "Dr. King was about love and about cooperation and compromise and working together," he said. "We don't see a whole lot of that in our leaders. We don't see a whole lot of it in our citizenry."

AP

Martin Luther King III, center, the son of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. with his wife Arndrea, right and daughter Yolanda, second right, delivers his remarks during a ceremony at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, in Washington, in observance of Kingís 83rd birthday anniversary, Sunday, January 15, 2012.

### THE STAGE

On Broadway, theatergoers are seeing a different version of King—one that is more man than legend.

The realism was refreshing for Donya Fairfax, who marveled after leaving a matinee of "The Mountaintop" that she had never really thought of King cursing, as actor Samuel L. Jackson does while portraying King in the play.

"He was human and not someone who was above fault," said the 48-year-old, visiting from Los Angeles. "He cursed. He did things that people do behind closed doors. He was regular."

For some, such a portrayal would seem to chip away at King's memory. But for Natalie Pertz, who at 20 has come to know King only through the gauzy view of history, it seemed a precious reminder that it is not beyond the reach of the ordinary and the flawed to effect change.

"It's important for people our age to see that he wasn't this saint-like figure," she said. "It's making you see that just because you're not perfect, it doesn't mean you can't do good."

For M.E. Ward, seeing an in-the-flesh incarnation of King brought her back more than 40 years, to when she watched his soaring speeches on the television. No matter how human he seemed on stage, she said, he still carried a godly gift.

"Still charismatic, still an orator, and an individual who was able to move people through his speech," she said, adding that King enlightened the world with a message "to be peaceful, to be patient, to be non-violent."

No matter how distant his presence is now, that legacy is still very relevant, she said, in what she called "a world of turmoil and violence, constant violence."

Do people idealize him too much?

"They don't do it enough!" said 64-year-old Elisabeth Carr, who cried through most of the play, feeling some of the pain she felt when the civil rights leader died. "The younger generation, they don't know anymore. ... They don't understand what they went through."

After traveling more than five hours with three friends—all of them African-American—to see Saturday's matinee, Mariko Tapper Taylor said seeing King in all his flaws did nothing to diminish his legacy.

"It's better to remember him as human," she said. "Who's flawless? It just shows that there's another side of him."

For her, the holiday remains very personal, Taylor said.

## Miss America confronted family pain with pageant

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—The nation's newest Miss America is a 23-year-old Wisconsin brunette who had long conversations with her family mulling whether or not to make her father's jail time for mail fraud the heart of her campaign in the beauty pageant.

While her competitors pushed platforms including promoting the health benefits of milk and protecting the environment, Laura Kaeppeler (KEP'-ler) said she wants children of incarcerated adults to feel less alone, to have mentoring and as much of a relationship with their parents as possible.

"There are many of you out there—and I was one of them—but it doesn't have to define you," Kaeppeler told The Associated Press after winning the crown and $50,000 scholarship on Saturday night.

To win, she said beauty queens and politicians should remember they represent all Americans, sang an opera song and strutted in a white bikini and black evening gown.

Her looks, smarts and personal vocation impressed a panel of seven celebrity judges enough to give her the next year with the title.

"What happened with my father is not what my year is going to be focused on," she said. "It's going to be focused on looking forward and moving to the future because that's what my family has done and that's what I'll encourage others to do, as well."

Kaeppeler estimated that there are more than 2 million children with a parent in jail.

Kaeppeler's father, Jeff Kaeppeler, told the AP he served 18 months in federal prison for mail fraud, a sentence his daughter said started as she was graduating high school and entering college.

Jeff Kaeppeler said when his daughter approached the family about making the personal topic her chosen platform, they supported it even though they knew it would be discussed publicly.

"It taught us that God can turn anything into good if you let him," he said. "Laura is totally on board with that idea. She let that drive her and inspire her this past year to get ready for this.

"We've seen a miracle," he said while waiting backstage for a news conference in which his daughter called him her "best friend" and briefly took pictures with him onstage.

"I love you," he whispered to her as dozens of cameras snapped photos.

Miss Oklahoma Betty Thompson came in second, while Miss New York Kaitlyn Monte placed third.

Kaeppler introduced herself to pageant viewers by referencing her home state's Green Bay Packers, the NFL's defending Super Bowl champions.

"If you're watching, Aaron Rodgers, call me," she said, referring to the football team's superstar quarterback.

She was good enough during preliminary competitions to be chosen as one of 15 semifinalists who moved on to compete in the pageant's finale. Her bid lasted through swimsuit, evening wear, talent and interview competitions that saw cuts after each round.

AP

Miss Wisconsin Laura Kaeppeler reacts after being crowned Miss America Saturday Jan. 14, 2012 at The Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

She was asked minutes before being crowned whether Miss America should declare her politics.

"Miss America represents everyone, so I think the message to political candidates is that they represent everyone as well," she said. "And so in these economic times, we need to be looking forward to what America needs, and I think Miss America needs to represent all."

The pageant aired live to east coast viewers on ABC and tape delayed to the rest of the country. The event was the culmination of a week of preliminary competitions and months of preparations for the titleholders from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Kaeppeler, of Kenosha, Wis., some 40 miles south of Milwaukee, said her crowning moment was a blur.

"I was crying even before my name was called," Kaeppeler said. "It was just surreal to have this honor."

She replaces Teresa Scanlan of Nebraska, who won last year at age 17 and plans to use her scholarship to pay for law school.

As the new Miss America, Kaeppeler will spend the next year touring the country to speak to different groups and raising money for the Children's Miracle Network, the Miss America Organization's official charity.

She majored in music and vocal performance at a private Lutheran liberal arts college in Kenosha, and told pageant officials initially that she planned to obtain a master's degree in speech and language pathology and become a speech therapist.

But that changed once she became Miss Wisconsin.

She now says she intends to use the scholarship money to pursue a law degree and become a family attorney who specializes in helping children of incarcerated adults.

"I really feel like I've been called to work in this," she said. "Whether I became Miss America or not, this is something that I would pursue in my career no matter what."

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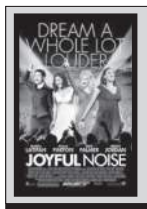
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:10 | 7:10 | |

Mark Wahlberg, Kate Beckinsale
Action • Rated R

**Synopsis**

A former smuggler from New Orleans faces ruthless drug lords, vicious criminals, corrupt officials, and trigger-happy hit men after getting back into the business to help his brother-in-law settle a deadly debt. When it came to transporting illicit goods under treacherous circumstances, Chris Farraday (Mark Wahlberg) used to be the best in the business. But all of that changed when he chose to give up his life of crime to start a family with Kate (Kate Beckinsale). Chris learns that leaving his past behind is easier said than done, however, after Kate's brother Andy (Caleb Landry Jones) goes to work for ferocious drug lord Tim Briggs (Giovanni Ribisi), and drops the ball on a major deal.



**Joyful Noise**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:30 | 7:30 | 9:50 |
| Saturday & Sunday | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | 9:50 |
| Monday | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:30 | 7:30 | |

Queen Latifah, Dolly Parton
Comedy • Rated PG

**Synopsis**

This light, gentle comedy from director Todd Graff stars Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah in the tale of a small-town choir determined to win a national choral competition. As the choir leaders, G.G. Sparrow and Vi Rose Hill (Parton and Latifah) band together and set out to win at any cost, supported by their eager young participants (Jeremy Jordan, Keke Palmer and others).

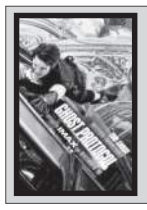
**War Horse**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:00 | 7:00 | 10:00 |
| Saturday & Sunday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 | 10:00 |
| Monday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:00 | 7:00 | |

Jeremy Irvine, Emily Watson
Drama, War • Rated PG 13

**Synopsis**

Director Steven Spielberg's epic World War I drama details the remarkable bond between a man named Albert (Jeremy Irvine) and his loyal horse, Joey. Adapted from the novel by Michael Morpurgo, War Horse follows the growing friendship between man and beast as Albert trains Joey, and then follows Joey on an incredible journey across the English countryside after the pair are forcibly separated.



**Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:15 | 7:15 | 9:55 |
| Saturday & Sunday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 | 9:55 |
| Monday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:15 | 7:15 | |

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13

**The Darkest Hour**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:25 | 7:25 | 9:40 |
| Saturday & Sunday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 | 9:40 |
| Monday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:25 | 7:25 | |

Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby
Science, Fiction • Rated PG 13

**Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:05 | 7:05 | 9:45 |
| Saturday & Sunday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 | 9:45 |
| Monday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:05 | 7:05 | |

Robert Downey, Jr. Jude Law
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13

**Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Friday | | 4:20 | 7:20 | 9:35 |
| Saturday & Sunday | 1:20 | 4:20 | 7:20 | 9:35 |
| Monday | 1:20 | 4:20 | 7:20 | |
| Tuesday thru Thursday | | 4:20 | 7:20 | |

Jason Lee
Children's/family • Rated G

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# 'Artist,' 'Descendants' score top Globe wins

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—The black-and-white silent film "The Artist" led the Golden Globes with three wins Sunday at a show that spread Hollywood's love around among a broad range of films, including best drama recipient "The Descendants" and its star, George Clooney.

Wins for "The Artist" included best musical or comedy and best actor in a musical or comedy for Jean Dujardin. Along with best drama, "The Descendants" won the dramatic-actor Globe for Clooney.

The dual best-picture prizes at the Globes could set up a showdown between "The Artist" and "The Descendants" for the top honor at next month's Academy Awards.

Other acting winners were Meryl Streep, Michelle Williams, Christopher Plummer, and Octavia Spencer, while Martin Scorsese earned the directing honor.

"I gotta thank everybody in England that let me come and trample over their history," said Streep, earning her eighth Globe, this time as dramatic actress for playing former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Williams won for actress in a musical or comedy as Marilyn Monroe in "My Week With Marilyn," 52 years after Monroe's win for the same prize at the Globes for "Some Like It Hot."

The supporting-acting Globes went to Plummer as an elderly widower who comes out as gay in the father-son drama "Beginners" and Spencer as a brassy housekeeper joining other black maids to share stories about life with their white employers in the 1960s Deep South tale "The Help."

"With regard to domestics in this country, now and then, I think Dr. King said it best: `All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance.' And I thank you for recognizing that with our film," Spencer said.

Scorsese won for the Paris adventure "Hugo." It was the third directing Globe in the last 10 years for Scorsese, who previously won for "Gangs of New York" and "The Departed" and received the show's Cecil B. DeMille Award for lifetime achievement two years ago.

He won over a field of contenders that included Michel Hazanavicius, who had been considered by many in Hollywood as a favorite for his black-and-white silent film "The Artist."

Williams offered thanks for giving her the same award Monroe once won and joked that her young daughter put up with bedtime stories for six months spoken in Monroe's voice.

"I consider myself a mother first and an actress second, so the person I most want to thank is my daughter, my little girl, whose bravery and exuberance is the example I take with me in my work and my life," Williams said.

Dujardin became the first star in a silent film to earn a major Hollywood prize since the early days of film. He won as a silent-era star whose career unravels amid the rise of talking pictures in the late 1920s.

It's a breakout role in Hollywood for Dujardin, a star back home in France but little known to U.S. audiences previously. His French credits include "The Artist" creator Hazanavicius' spy spoofs "OSS 117: Cairo, Nest of Spies" and "OSS 117: Lost in Rio."

While the musical or comedy categories at the Globes offer recognition for lighter films amid Hollywood's sober-minded awards season, the winners usually are not serious contenders for the Oscars. The last time the winner for best musical or comedy at the Globes went on to claim best-picture at the Oscars was nine years ago with "Chicago."

This time, though, "The Artist" and Dujardin have enough critical mass to compete at the Oscars with dramatic counterparts such as "The Descendants" and Clooney.

Both films have a good mix of laughs and tears. "The Artist" could be called a comedy with strong doses of melodrama, while "The Descendants" might be described as a drama tinged with gently comic moments.

Directed by Alexander Payne ("Sideways"), "The Descendants" provided a more down-to-earth role for Clooney, who's often known for slick, high-rolling characters such as those in his "Ocean's Eleven" heist capers and or the legal saga "Michael Clayton."

Adapted from Kaui Hart Hemmings' novel, "The Descendants" casts Clooney as Matt King, the scion of an aristocratic Hawaiian clan and a neglectful dad suddenly forced to hold together his two spirited daughters after his wife falls into a coma from a boating accident.

AP

The cast and crew of the film "The Artist" pose backstage with the award for Best Motion Picture - Comedy or Musical during the 69th Annual Golden Globe Awards Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012, in Los Angeles. From left, Missy Pyle, Jean Dujardin, Uggie, Michel Hazanavicius, Berenice Bejo and Penelope Ann Miller.

## Gervais brings sharp tongue as host of Globes

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Three time's the charm—if that's not the wrong word for Ricky Gervais' third year as scathing steward of the Golden Globes.

Or maybe the word is "f-word"—which Gervais blurted out, and which was bleeped, as he introduced presenters Antonio Banderas and Salma Hayek late in the show Sunday night.

"They're ridiculously gorgeous specimens, they're extremely talented and probably very interesting," Gervais declared. "I'm not sure," he went on, as censors instantly bleeped out the rest of his wisecrack, which declared, "I couldn't understand a (expletive) word they said."

AP

In this image released by NBC, host Ricky Gervais speaks during the 69th Annual Golden Globe Awards, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012 in Los Angeles.

Later, when he came back on stage with wine glass in hand, he said it was great having a job that allowed you to get drunk and say whatever you wished and still get paid.

Gervais' monologue didn't shock quite the way it did last year, but it had its share of barbs.

"Nervous? Don't be," he grinned at the room-full of glitterati at the top of the show, aired by NBC on Sunday. "Tonight you get Britain's biggest comedian, hosting the world's second-biggest awards show on America's third-biggest network." He corrected himself: "It's fourth."

## List of winners for the Golden Globes

### MOTION PICTURES

- **Picture, Drama**: "The Descendants."
- **Picture, Musical or Comedy**: "The Artist."
- **Actor, Drama**: George Clooney, "The Descendants."
- **Actress, Drama**: Meryl Streep, "The Iron Lady."
- **Director**: Martin Scorsese, "Hugo."
- **Actor, Musical or Comedy**: Jean Dujardin, "The Artist."
- **Actress, Musical or Comedy**: Michelle Williams, "My Week With Marilyn."
- **Supporting Actor**: Christopher Plummer, "Beginners."
- **Supporting Actress**: Octavia Spencer, "The Help."
- **Foreign Language**: "A Separation."
- **Animated Film**: "The Adventures of Tintin."
- **Screenplay:** Woody Allen, "Midnight in Paris."
- **Original Score**: Ludovic Bource, "The Artist."
- **Original Song**: "Masterpiece" (music and lyrics by Madonna, Julie Frost, Jimmy Harry), "W.E."

### TELEVISION

- **Series, Drama**: "Homeland," Showtime.
- **Series, Musical or Comedy**: "Modern Family," ABC.
- **Actor, Drama**: Kelsey Grammer, "Boss."
- **Actress, Drama**: Claire Danes, "Homeland."
- **Actress, Musical or Comedy**: Laura Dern, "Enlightened."
- **Actor, Musical or Comedy**: Matt LeBlanc, "Episodes."
- **Miniseries or Movie**: "Downton Abbey (Masterpiece)," PBS.
- **Actress, Miniseries or Movie:** Kate Winslet, "Mildred Pierce."
- **Actor, Miniseries or Movie**: Idris Elba, "Luther."
- **Supporting Actress, Series, Miniseries or Movie**: Jessica Lange, "American Horror Story."
- **Supporting Actor, Series, Miniseries or Movie**: Peter Dinklage, "Game of Thrones."

### PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

**Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award:** Morgan Freeman.

# Boxing great Muhammad Ali gets 70th birthday bash

**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** (AP)—At 70, Muhammad Ali is "still the greatest" to friends and admirers worldwide.

The boxing champ basked in chants of "Ali! Ali!" as hundreds of supporters cheered him on Saturday night with a hearty rendering of "Happy Birthday" during his 70th birthday celebration in his Kentucky hometown. Never mind that Ali actually turns 70 years old on Tuesday: the private party in his hometown is the first of five planned in the next few months.

As party-goers mingled in a lobby of the Muhammad Ali Center before the festivities, Ali walked slowly to a second-floor balcony overlooking them. The crowd immediately began to clap, then broke into effusive chants and singing. The three-time world heavyweight champion, who is battling Parkinson's disease, leaned against a rail and raised his right hand to wave to the crowd. Then he joined his party out of view of the public and the press.

Former heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis said his boyhood idol is "still the greatest."

"I feel so proud and honored that we're able to show our feelings and show our support for him," Lewis said.

The guest list numbered 350 for the private party, which doubled as a $1,000-per-person fundraiser for the Ali Center, a six-year-old cultural and education complex designed to be a legacy to his social activism. The six-story center also retraces Ali's career, including his epic bouts against Joe Frazier, George Foreman and Sonny Liston.

The guest list included Ali's trainer Angelo Dundee and three American hikers who were imprisoned in Iran. Ali, perhaps the most prominent U.S. Muslim, lobbied for their release. Rocker John Mellencamp headlined the entertainment.

AP

Boxing great Muhammad Ali is helped by his wife, Lonnie, right, as he looks down from a balcony at friends attending a celebration for his 70th birthday at the Muhammad Ali Center on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, in Louisville, Ky. Ali turns 70 Tuesday.

Dundee, who traveled from Clearwater, Fla., for the celebration, said he hears from Ali about once a month.

"We're like family," Dundee told The Courier-Journal of Louisville. "We've always been family and we're always going to be family. He'll say, `Angie, I want to come and train. That's what I miss the most. Being in the gym. Working up a sweat.'"

Guests paid tribute to Ali before filling a banquet hall for a party closed to the public.

"The reason I loved him is because of his confidence," University of Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari said. "He would talk and then back it up. He had great courage and who had more fun than him?"

The self-proclaimed "Greatest of All Time" remains one of the world's most recognizable figures, even though he's been largely absent from the public eye recently as he fights Parkinson's disease.

His wife Lonnie Ali said recently that the boxing great has mixed feelings about the landmark birthday.

"He's glad he's here to turn 70, but he wants to be reassured he doesn't look 70," she said.

Born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. on Jan. 17, 1942, Ali took up boxing at age 12, when his bike was stolen and he wanted to find and whip the culprit. The boy was introduced to Joe Martin, a police officer who coached boxing at a local gym.

Ali flourished in the ring, becoming a top amateur and Olympic gold medalist. He made his professional debut in Louisville and arranged for a local children's hospital to receive proceeds from the fight.

Lewis said Ali ranks as the greatest of heavyweights, and he said he was inspired by Ali's fights.

"I used to get mad if I didn't see the Ali shuffle," Lewis said. "So I was always watching him, expecting some type of antic."

Ali won the heavyweight title in 1964, defeating the heavily favored Sonny Liston. Soon after, Ali—who was raised in a Baptist family—announced his conversion to Islam and changed his name.

While in his prime, Ali was stripped of his heavyweight crown in 1967 for refusing to be drafted for military service during the Vietnam War. He cited his religious beliefs as the reason for his refusal.

His decision alienated Ali from many across the U.S. and resulted in a draft-evasion conviction. Ali found himself embroiled in a long legal fight that ended in 1971, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor.

Ali lost his first bid to regain the heavyweight crown when Frazier knocked him down and took a decision in the "Fight of the Century" at Madison Square Garden in 1971. Ali regained the heavyweight title in 1974, defeating Foreman in the "Rumble in the Jungle." A year later, he outlasted Frazier in the epic "Thrilla in Manila" bout.

Last year, a frail Ali rose from his seat and clapped for his deceased rival at Frazier's funeral.

## Michael Lohan's ex arrested on battery charge

**BOCA RATON, Fla.** (AP)—The ex-girlfriend of the father of actress Lindsay Lohan is back in jail.

Lohan

Palm Beach County jail records show 29-year-old Kate Major is being held without bond on several charges including battery on an officer and resisting an officer with violence. It was not immediately known if she has an attorney.

Records show she was arrested early Sunday morning by Boca Raton police. A phone message left Sunday by The Associated Press was not immediately returned.

The arrest was first reported by TMZ.

Major is the ex-girlfriend of Michael Lohan, who pleaded no contest in Florida late last year stemming from domestic violence charges. He was ordered not to have any contact with Major.

Major was arrested on a battery charge last year at Los Angeles International Airport.

# FX network's big risk with Sheen

**PASADENA, Calif.** (AP)—The head of the FX network said Sunday he still hasn't seen a script for Charlie Sheen's new sitcom "Anger Management," which is due to premiere in June.

That's a little late, conceded John Landgraf, FX president and general manager. It illustrates the grand gamble made by the cable network, one with a potentially big payoff.

FX usually produces its own series, and Landgraf said he's never ordered one without seeing a pilot episode, much less a script. "Anger Management," loosely based on the 2003 movie about a troubled therapist who disrupts his patients' lives, is produced by Debmar-Mercury, a subsidiary of the Lionsgate production company.

Landgraf said he has faith in Bruce Helford, former producer of "The Drew Carey Show" and the creative force behind the new series.

Sheen

The executive said he's met with Sheen, and is confident the actor is trying to pull his life together following the drug-fueled meltdown that led to his firing from CBS' "Two and a Half Men."

"Charlie has 30 years of incredible professionalism under his belt," Landgraf said. "He was respected by the crew of `Two and a Half Men.' Then he had probably the most epic meltdown in the history of television. But he really cares about the quality of his work."

Successful television executives need to bet successfully on the right people to go into business with, and also the right time to go into business with them, he said.

Sheen wants to do a show where he is navigating a complicated relationship with his daughter, much like he is doing in real life, Landgraf said. He said he wouldn't be interested in the show if Sheen did not exhibit some self-awareness of what he's gone through in life.

"I believe in redemption," he said.

FX has ordered 10 episodes of "Anger Management," and will pair it on the schedule with reruns of "Two and a Half Men." It expects a strong debut for curiosity reasons. If it does well after that, FX will consider ordering 90 more, which would put FX in the lucrative business of being able to sell repeats of the show in syndication to other networks.

It's all a bet, Landgraf said.

"Could I be spectacularly wrong about this bet?" he asked. "Yes."

# Daughter could use counseling to cope with controlling mom

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY**: I'm 23, the only child of a controlling, paranoid, hermit-like and hyper-religious mother and a peace-loving, passive father. I graduated from college last year. Shortly after, my boyfriend and I accepted dream jobs in the same town several hours away from my parents.

Mom was appalled. She "warned" me that I wouldn't last and would come home. Instead, I have embraced my new city and job. Mom is at her wits' end. When I mentioned that my boyfriend had recorded a movie for me, she said he was controlling me via technology. If I tell her about a project I initiated at work, she says my employer is taking advantage of me.

Mom pays for a landline in my apartment that I don't want, but she insists because she's convinced that cellphones cause cancer. She calls me constantly, and if I don't answer she leaves frantic messages about how "disrespectful" I am, and how she and Dad are "praying for my soul."

This has gotten out of control. I try talking to her, but she won't listen and laughs at the idea of counseling. She says it's her "job" to tell me what to do. My father agrees that her behavior and approach are wrong, but says she has good intentions and I need to "work with her."

Abby, I don't know what to do. She's becoming increasingly controlling and worried about my soul. I'm worried that my distance is affecting her health. Some advice, please!

WANTS A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP
WITH MOM

**DEAR WANTS: If you return home because you're afraid having moved away and asserting your independence is negatively affecting your mother's health, you will never have a life of your own. Because she laughs at the idea of counseling doesn't mean that YOU shouldn't get some in order to help you separate yourself from her constant efforts to manipulate you.**

**Her dependence on you is not normal. That's why you should enlist the help of a mental health professional. It will give you some insight in how to deal with her. If you try to "work with her" without that help, she will suck you in and you will never be free.**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I have very nice neighbors who believe in leaving the wild and natural growth on their property. They have posted a sign that claims it to be a "certified natural habitat." They never weed or cut anything back. At first, it was cared for, but now it has become an eyesore, and people who visit our house have made comments.

I have tried to grow border plants to hide the mess, but nothing seems to help. I believe it affects the value of our home. My husband doesn't want me to say anything for fear of hurting their feelings. They're nice people, but we don't live in a rural area where this might be more acceptable. Have you any suggestions?

THORN IN OUR SIDE

**DEAR THORN: Yes. Who certified your neighbors' yard as a "natural habitat"? The city? If so, call City Hall and find out if their yard still qualifies. What you have described may be a fire hazard, so some investigation may be in order. If there is a homeowners association in your neighborhood, it should also be contacted to ensure their house is in compliance with the codes, covenants and restrictions. If necessary, someone who is close to these neighbors should volunteer to "help" them with their yard. A natural landscape can be beautiful, but only if it's properly maintained.**

---

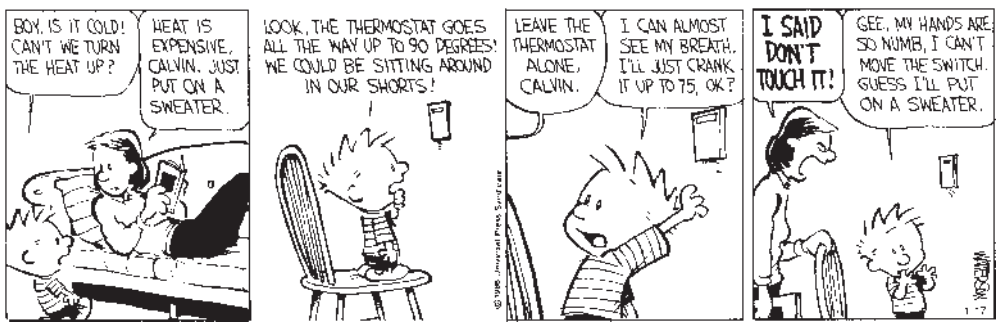
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby–Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

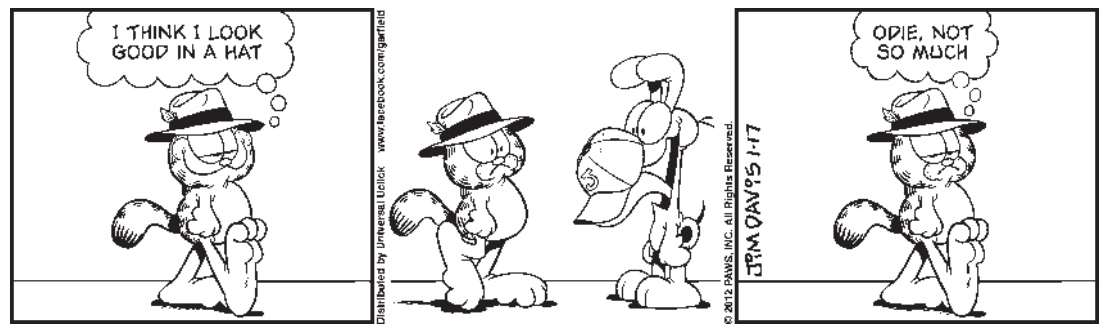
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BOY, IS IT COLD! CAN'T WE TURN THE HEAT UP?
HEAT IS EXPENSIVE, CALVIN. JUST PUT ON A SWEATER.
LOOK, THE THERMOSTAT GOES ALL THE WAY UP TO 90 DEGREES! WE COULD BE SITTING AROUND IN OUR SHORTS!
LEAVE THE THERMOSTAT ALONE, CALVIN.
I CAN ALMOST SEE MY BREATH. I'LL JUST CRANK IT UP TO 75, OK?
I SAID DON'T TOUCH IT!
GEE, MY HANDS ARE SO NUMB, I CAN'T MOVE THE SWITCH. GUESS I'LL PUT ON A SWEATER.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I THINK I LOOK GOOD IN A HAT
ODIE, NOT SO MUCH
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
JIM DAVIS 1-17
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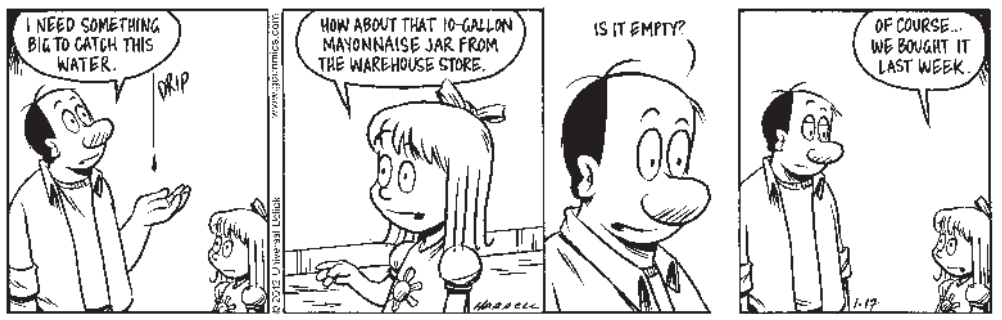
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I NEED SOMETHING BIG TO CATCH THIS WATER.
DRIP
HOW ABOUT THAT 10-GALLON MAYONNAISE JAR FROM THE WAREHOUSE STORE.
IS IT EMPTY?
OF COURSE... WE BOUGHT IT LAST WEEK.
www.gocomics.com
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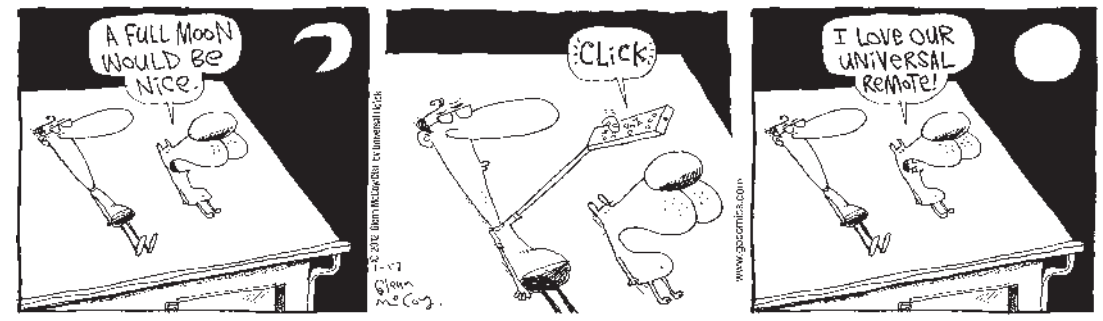
## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


A FULL MOON WOULD BE NICE.
CLICK
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## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

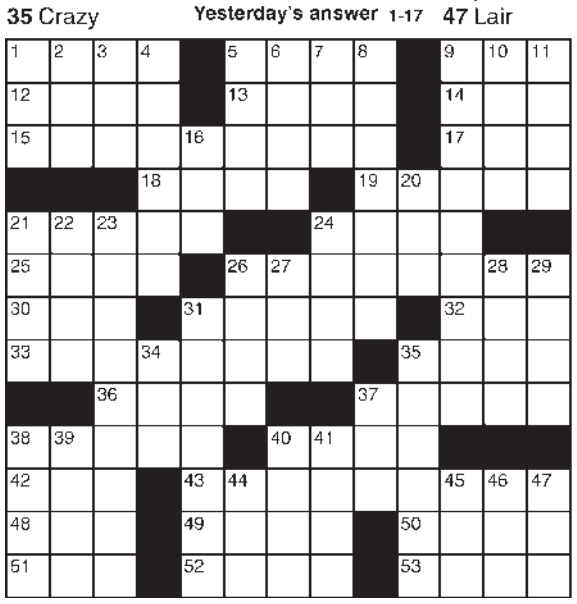
**ACROSS**
1 Help on the sly
5 Creche visitors
9 Sch. org.
12 Short skirt
13 Astringent
14 Rowing need
15 Quickly
17 Take to the slopes
18 Stretch vehicle
19 Played Hamlet, e.g.
21 Stares stupidly
24 Soon, in poetry
25 Crucifix
26 Some graduate courses
30 — and outs
31 Maximum
32 "The way" in China
33 Debris
35 Crazy
36 Stubborn beast
37 Dissolves
38 Sordid
40 Many millennia
42 Standard
43 Put off
48 Request
49 Operatic solo
50 Goodyear product
51 "Indeed"
52 Transaction
53 Verve

**DOWN**
1 Roadie's equipment
2 Life story, for short
3 Type measures
4 Like nobility, e.g.
5 Sir's partner
6 Too
7 Eviscerate
8 "This is no joke!"
9 Of the very, very young
10 Seize
11 Saharan
16 Man's possessive
20 Swindle
21 Puzzle diagram, e.g.
22 Highly rated
23 Mailing-date indicators
24 Writer Kingsley
26 Location
27 Ostrich's cousin
28 Huck's transport
29 Drunkards
31 Frog's perch, maybe
34 Piratic potation
35 Signify
37 Unruly hairdo
38 Fix, in a sense
39 Relaxation
40 Europe's neighbor
41 And others (Lat.)
44 Raw rock
45 Zero
46 Historic period
47 Lair

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | S | I | A | ■ | E | G | G | ■ | S | H | A | G |
| R | E | N | T | F | R | E | E | ■ | C | O | C | O |
| P | A | N | T | R | I | E | S | ■ | A | O | N | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | O | N | ■ | T | E | M | P | E | R |
| P | R | O | N | G | ■ | B | U | R | P | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| H | F | I | D | ■ | T | A | R | R | I | F | S | ■ |
| D | A | G | ■ | U | H | G | E | S | ■ | V | A | I |
| ■ | M | A | R | R | I | E | S | ■ | W | I | L | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | H | A | U | L | ■ | M | A | L | T | A |
| N | A | P | A | L | M | ■ | E | A | R | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| A | D | A | M | ■ | P | A | S | T | R | I | E | S |
| N | O | N | E | ■ | H | A | T | T | E | R | A | S |
| A | G | E | S | ■ | S | U | E | ■ | N | A | U | T |

Yesterday's answer 1-17



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Zooey Deschanel, 32; Kid Rock, 41; Jim Carrey, 50; Betty White, 90.

**Happy Birthday**: Share your feelings and you will get a clear response. Avoid being too secretive, and don't isolate to avoid controversy. Get your desires and goals out in the open and you will be free to move ahead with your plans. You must take advantage of opportunities and live life your way. Your numbers are 3, 11, 13, 22, 28, 33, 45.

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Re-evaluate your relationships. Once you get a better sense of who has purpose in your life and who drags you down, you will be better equipped to schedule your time based on what's best for you and who contributes the most. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Organization will help you get the most out of your day. Schedule meetings or a talk with someone who can offer you information or help you achieve your goals. Romance is in the stars and will enhance your love life. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): Keep moving. The more time spent doing and the less time spent talking about what you intend to do, the better. Time is money, so don't miss a moment of time that should be spent getting ahead financially. Progress takes precedence. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Put more effort into your relationships with your lover, partners, friends and the youngsters in your life. What you offer others will determine what you get in return. Love is in the stars, and situations conducive to romance will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't wait around for someone else to take responsibility. Jump at any chance you get to show how capable and valuable you are. Don't let a change of plans stand in your way. Readjust your plans to compensate and keep moving. ✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Relationships will take an interesting turn. Dealing with friends, lovers or colleagues personally will enhance what you do next and how it will affect your future. Take steps to make things happen to your specifications. If you want something, ask for it. ✪✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Impulsiveness will backfire. Bide your time and keep a close eye on what others do. A partner will lead you in the right direction, as long as you don't put up a fuss. A creative project will require greater discipline and detail. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Getting together with people you find inspiring will lead to a plan that will benefit you. An opportunity will have a direct link to something you offer someone out of generosity. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't worry about what others do or say. Base your decisions on what you feel will benefit everyone and contribute to the end result. Anger or thoughtless actions will be your downfall. Stay calm and be thoughtful. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your ideas will lead to advancement. Whether you are self-employed or working for someone else, you will prosper if you project what you know and do well. Interest will mount in your potential, both personally and professionally. ✪✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let your emotions fester, or you will make mistakes. Double-check any information you receive before you use it openly. Too much of anything will lead to mistakes that will be difficult to fix. ✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your kindness will help pave the way to your advancement. Help will be offered and favors granted if you have been generous in the past with your skills, talent and know-how. Someone from your past will resurface. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are intense, determined and sensitive. You command attention.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 4 | 8 | 6 | | | 3 | |
| | | | 4 | | 5 | | | 6 |
| 8 | | | | | 7 | | | |
| 4 | 1 | | | | | 5 | 6 | |
| 6 | | | | 9 | | | | 2 |
| | 8 | 3 | | | | | 4 | 7 |
| | | | 9 | | | | | 8 |
| 1 | | | 5 | | 3 | | | |
| | 3 | | | 1 | 8 | 6 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★ 1/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 |
| 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 3 |

Difficulty Level ★ 1/10

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS** **Solution: 6 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | E | S | E | U | S | S | I | G | Y | S | P | I | R | T |
| E | E | L | N | I | A | G | S | T | U | O | L | C | E | C |
| T | S | G | O | O | G | P | I | E | S | A | O | A | O | N |
| S | E | U | A | R | I | R | L | E | I | M | I | U | E | S |
| W | T | R | A | R | U | S | I | A | P | T | N | D | T | D |
| E | O | N | M | C | E | T | S | R | N | T | E | N | E | S |
| I | D | R | E | S | U | V | O | U | R | N | E | C | F | M |
| V | D | S | G | D | U | M | O | I | C | M | I | F | I | T |
| R | D | E | S | A | I | M | E | C | N | S | A | N | S | N |
| E | L | W | G | S | N | S | M | R | O | T | I | O | G | Ⓓ |
| T | E | I | E | N | T | I | E | I | S | S | H | D | Ⓐ | P |
| N | A | T | V | I | A | V | Z | R | T | O | T | Ⓣ | N | R |
| I | I | L | S | I | O | R | E | E | P | O | Ⓔ | S | S | E |
| S | A | I | K | G | C | E | R | E | M | O | N | I | E | S |
| E | V | A | U | S | P | S | S | A | S | U | N | E | M | S |

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Arranged, Cause, Ceremonies, Civil, Clout, Compromise, Costs, Countries, Coverage, Date, Deals, Discussions, Duties, Gain, Governments, Grand, Hopes, Host, Interviews, Issues, Media, Menus, Ministers, News, Niceties, Organize, Peers, Planning, Presidents, Press, Role, Security, Sites, Snags, Staffs, Suave, Summit, Talks, Terms, Tone, Trips, Visits

**Yesterday's Answer: Crumpets**

# CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Cable car

## FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

---

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

---

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

---

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
**RFP12-DEQ-009**

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 02, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"PESTICIDE SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE DIVISION ON ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY"**

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 03, 2012 AT THE DEQ OFFICE OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MS. REINA CAMACHO (670) 664-8540 OR BY E-MAIL TO **reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **JANUARY 23, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE*** BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

## MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, January 20, 2012 beginning at 9:30am at MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

The following agenda is hereby established:

**I PRELIMINARIES**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Election of Officers
5. Adoption of Minutes
   December 9, 2011
   January 3, 2012 – Special Meeting

**II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**
**III CONSULTANT'S REPORTS**
1. Investment Consultant Report
   a. Flash Reports
   b. Money Manager Report – MetWest
2. Loan Administrator
3. Board Consultant Report

**IV LEGAL COUNSEL**
- NMHC RFP
- DPL/CHC – real property

**V OLD BUSINESS**
- Alternative Investment
- CHC – Electronic Health Record (E.H.R)
- SLI 17-13
- SLI 17-14
- HB 17-258

**VI COMMUNICATIONS**
**VII NEW BUSINESS**
- CHC loan proposal

**VIII MISCELLANEOUS**
- Trustees and Administrators' Institute–Feb 13-15, 2012, Orlando, FL

**IX ADJOURNMENT**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the BOE Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan.

**AGENDA**

**I. Preliminary**
1) Call to Order
2) Roll Call
3) Adoption of Agenda
**II. Adoption of Minutes**
a) December 14, 2011 Special Board Meeting
b) December 22, 2011 Regular Board Meeting
**II. Public Comments[1]**
**III. Reports**
1) Chair
2) Board Committees
a) FPA
b) ISA
c) LIA
d) CIP
e) SEEIP
f) SCHOOL REFORM
g) AD HOC
i. Student Representative
3) Commissioner of Education
**IV. Unfinished Business**
**V. New Business**
1) Budget & Fiscal Matters
a) Federal FSR
b) Local FSR
c) Updates on Financial Management Plan
2) Part C Special Education Grant Application
3) PSS Foundation
4) Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program (SPECA)
**VI. Executive Session[2]**
1) Legal Updates
2) Personnel
3) Other matters
**VII. Miscellaneous Matters**
**VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**
**IX. Adjournment**

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments ae limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

**Public Participation Requirement**

**CNMI Public School System, Early Intervention Program**

Pursuant to Part B & Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act & GEPA, the Public School System Special Education & Early Intervention Program is required to provide a 60 day circulation notice of its Part B & Part C Grant Application and a 30 day comment period from the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities.

- Public Circulation Period: January 30, 2012 thru March 29, 2012
- Public Comment Period: February 13, 2012 thru March 13, 2012
- Public hearing will be scheduled at a later date.

Copies of the Grant Applications are available from Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm at the following locations:

Office of Special Education Program, PSS in Susupe – 237-3029
Children's Development Assistance Center (C*DAC) in Garapan – 664-4830, and will be available on the PSS Website; www.cnmipss.org/state-level-programs /curriculum-instruction-assessment/special-education-early-intervention-program/grant-applications

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670)664-3774, hand delivered to the Office of Special Education Program located on the 2nd floor PSS Central Bldg., at the back of Marianas High School in Susupe, or phone in your comments to:

| | |
|---|---|
| Special Education Program: | (670) 237-3029 |
| Children's Dev. Assistance Center: | (670) 664-4830 |

For more information, please contact Ms. Suzanne W. Lizama-Director, Special Education Program at (670) 237-3029, or Robin Palacios, Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program at (670) 664-4830.

# CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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| ADS | (PRINT) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|---|
| • 3-Liner | $15 | $27 |
| • 5-Liner | $24 | $39 |
| • 3-Liner with picture | $24 | $42 |
| • 5-Liner with picture | $36 | $57 |

## ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

## CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

## REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

## CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

## ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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# Manning throws 3 TDs, Giants stun Packers

**GREEN BAY, Wis.** (AP)—For Eli Manning and the New York Giants, Lambeau Field has become a familiar launching pad. After beating the Green Bay Packers at home for the second time in four years, they only hope this trip ends the same way—at the Super Bowl.

Manning threw three touchdown passes and the Giants shocked the Packers 37-20 in an NFC divisional playoff game Sunday. Manning threw for 330 yards, sending the Giants to San Francisco for the NFC championship game next Sunday night.

The Packers (15-2) might have been the reigning Super Bowl champs, but the Giants (11-7) might be the hottest team in the NFL.

"I think we're a dangerous team," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "I like where we are and how we're playing."

The Giants stunned the Packers with a touchdown off a long heave from Manning to Hakeem Nicks just before halftime, then knocked them out with a late touchdown off a turnover. Lambeau Field fell silent as the Giants swarmed the field in celebration, with a handful of New York fans chanting, "Let's go, Giants!"

The Giants have been on a roll ever since beating the rival Jets on Dec. 24, beating the Dallas Cowboys to get in the playoffs and then blowing out Atlanta in the wild card round last week.

The win came four years after the Giants beat a Brett Favre-led Packers team in the NFC title game. It wasn't nearly as frigid this time around, and the Packers' vulnerable defense seemed to be waiting to get sliced up.

AP

New York Giants wide receiver Hakeem Nicks (88) celebrates after catching a 37-yard touchdown pass during the first the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Green Bay Packers Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012, in Green Bay, Wis.

"This team knows how to win on the road," defensive end Justin Tuck said. "It seems like right now it's our time."

Manning found six different receivers against a porous Packers defense. But Manning did the most damage with his throws to Nicks, who caught seven passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns.

Nicks' biggest play was a 66-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter. His score at the end of the half came on a 37-yard pass into the end zone with defenders all around.

"It was a big momentum play for them, but we were not deflated as a football team," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said.

Nicks said he wasn't even sure he'd landed in the end zone.

"All I said was, I've got to go up and get it," Nicks said. "Honestly, I (didn't) know where I landed. When I saw where I was, it was exciting."

The Giants' defense also was able to defuse the big-play abilities of Aaron Rodgers and the Packers' offense.

Rodgers was 26 of 46 for 264 yards, with two touchdowns and an interception. He also was the Packers' leading rusher with 66 yards on seven carries.

Meanwhile, the Packers' past problems with dropped balls by their talented group of wide receivers returned at the worst time imaginable.

And while the Packers' defense has been vulnerable all season, giving up far too many yards and big plays, they've typically made up for it by forcing turnovers.

This time, the Packers were the ones giving the ball away.

Green Bay lost three fumbles, including one on a rare giveaway by Rodgers. The Giants also sacked Rodgers four times.

With the Packers trailing 20-10 at halftime but finally beginning to look like themselves on offense to start the second half, Osi Umenyiora swatted the ball away from Rodgers, and Deon Grant recovered the fumble at the Green Bay 37.

"With a 10-point lead, we're going to get after you," Umenyiora said. "And that's what we did."

But the mistake didn't cost the Packers points, and Green Bay cut the lead to seven points on a 35-yard field goal by Mason Crosby late in the third quarter.

The Packers put together another drive early in the fourth quarter, but Michael Boley and Umenyiora combined to sack Rodgers on fourth-and-5 in Giants territory.

After carving up the Packers in the first half, the Giants' offense hit a lull in the second half. But they broke out of it to drive for a 35-yard field goal by Lawrence Tynes to take a 23-13 lead with 7:48 left to play.

Packers running back Ryan Grant then fumbled after catching a pass and the Giants recovered, taking the ball back deep into Green Bay territory.

Manning then threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Mario Manningham and the Giants took a 30-13 lead. Rodgers rallied the Packers for a 16-yard touchdown pass to Donald Driver, cutting the lead to 30-20 with 4:46 left.

The Packers then tried on onside kick, but the Giants' Victor Cruz recovered.

New York's Brandon Jacobs scored on a 14-yard run with 2:36 left to put the game away.

It was an emotional day for the Packers, who welcomed back offensive coordinator Joe Philbin for Sunday's game—two days after the funeral service for Philbin's 21-year-old son, Michael.

Joe Philbin had been away from the team all week after Michael Philbin's body was recovered from an icy river in Oshkosh, Wis. on Monday. A preliminary autopsy showed that he drowned.

"I think deep down, a lot of us wanted to kind of get this one for him," Rodgers said.

# *Ravens beat Texans, move into AFC title game*

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—If style points and offensive fireworks meant anything, the Baltimore Ravens wouldn't stand a chance of making it to the AFC championship.

Playing defense and protecting the football are what they do best, and that formula led to a 20-13 victory over the Houston Texans on Sunday, putting Baltimore in the AFC title game against the New England Patriots.

"I always say there is a right way to do things, there is a wrong way to do things and there is just the Ravens' way of doing things," linebacker Terrell Suggs said. "It wasn't pretty but we're not really a pretty team. We got the W and now it's on to the AFC championship."

The Ravens (13-4) had almost as many punts (nine) as first downs (11) and scored only three points over the final 46 minutes. But Baltimore wasn't penalized once, didn't commit a turnover, intercepted rookie quarterback T.J. Yates three times and totaled four takeaways—two in the first quarter and two over the final eight minutes.

"If we didn't get any of those turnovers it would probably be a different game," Ravens defensive tackle Haloti Ngata said.

Baltimore visits New England next Sunday, with the winner advancing to the Super Bowl in Indianapolis on Feb. 5.

The Patriots lead the series 6-1, but Baltimore's lone win came in the postseason.

"We don't play the game until next week," Suggs said. "I'm going to enjoy tonight."

Veteran defensive stars Ed Reed and Ray Lewis led a unit that yielded only one touchdown and came up with the big play when one was needed. Lewis had a team-high seven tackles and Reed sealed the victory with the Ravens' fourth takeaway, an interception near the goal line in the closing minutes.

"It's winning by any means necessary," Reed said. "That's what it's got to be."

The Ravens finished 9-0 at home, but this one was anything but easy. Baltimore led 17-3 after the first quarter, and interceptions by Lardarius Webb and Reed in the final 7 1/2 minutes helped the advantage stand up.

Reed has eight interceptions in 10 playoff games, few bigger than the last one.

"You can't say enough about him," Ravens linebacker Jarret Johnson said. "His big plays always seem to happen when you need one."

One week earlier, in the first playoff game in Texans history, Houston didn't commit a turnover in a 31-10 home rout of Cincinnati. Against Baltimore, the Texans couldn't hold onto the ball and quickly fell behind by two touchdowns.

Arian Foster ran for 132 yards, the first player ever to rush for 100 yards against the Ravens in the postseason. But Yates' three interceptions matched the total he had in six regular season games.

"I can't have the turnovers," Yates said. "If we don't turn the ball over like that, we have a chance to win. And we still had a chance to win. If I'd done a better job of protecting the football, I really think we'd have come out with the win today. We did a good job of moving the ball and we had some big plays, but you can't have that many picks."

Yates was the third starting quarterback used by Houston this season following injuries to Matt Schaub and Matt Leinart. The Texans also lost wide receiver Andre Johnson for a spell and finished without sack specialist Mario Williams, who missed the last two-thirds of the season.

And still, the Texans got within a win of reaching the conference title game. After the game, team owner Bob McNair pulled aside coach Gary Kubiak and congratulated him.

"I told him how proud I was. ... To come out and play the way this team has played, I think it's just remarkable," McNair said. "Where would New England have been if (Tom) Brady wasn't playing, and if Wes Welker wasn't playing, and if their best defensive player wasn't playing? Go down the list of any of these teams and ask where they would be—and they wouldn't be in the playoffs. And this team was in the playoffs."

Down 17-13 at halftime, Houston twice held the Ravens without a first down in the third quarter before driving to the Baltimore 32. From there, Neil Rackers' 50-yard field goal try hit the crossbar and dropped into the end zone.

Baltimore then launched a drive in which seldom-used Lee Evans made a sensational one-handed catch for a 30-yard gain on third-and-5 from the Houston 39. On fourth-and-goal inside the 1, Ray Rice was stuffed by linebacker Tim Dobbins for no gain.

"That's a huge play," Houston defensive end J.J. Watt said. "Those are the type of plays that win playoffs games. Obviously, we wish it had gone the other way, but those are the type of plays that you remember."

The Texans couldn't move the ball, and the Ravens took the ensuing punt at the Houston 49. But three plays netted only 4 yards, and Sam Koch punted for the seventh time.

Minutes later, the Ravens went three and out for the fourth time in five second-half possessions. Fortunately for Baltimore, the defense compensated for the team's inability to add to its early lead.

"You have to do whatever you have to do to win a football game," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said.

Webb's second interception came with 7 1/2 minutes left and the Ravens clinging to 17-13 advantage. Baltimore moved 45 yards to get a field goal by Billy Cundiff with 2:52 left.

Houston's Danieal Manning muffled the record crowd of 71,547 by taking the opening kickoff 60 yards to the Baltimore 41. Yates then completed two straight passes, and after the Ravens stuffed Foster on a third-and-1, Rackers kicked a 40-yard field goal.

Baltimore failed to get a first down on its first possession and had to punt. Jacoby Jones inexplicably attempted to field the bouncing ball at the 13-yard line, was immediately hit by Cary Williams and lost the ball, which was recovered by Baltimore rookie Jimmy Smith at the 2.

On third down, Joe Flacco threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Kris Wilson - the tight end's first catch of the season.

After a Houston punt, Flacco completed a 21-yard pass to Anquan Boldin to set up a 48-yard field goal for a 10-3 lead.

Later in the first quarter, Ravens cornerback Lardarius Webb stepped in front of Johnson for an interception at the Houston 35. Five plays later, Flacco tossed a 10-yard touchdown pass to Boldin in the right side of the end zone.

Yates then completed a pair of third-down passes in a 59-yard drive that ended with a field goal.

After Yates misfired on third down from the Baltimore 10, the rookie came off the field he was greeted by coach Gary Kubiak, who put a hand on the back of the quarterback's jersey while chatting.

Yates returned after a Baltimore punt to direct a 12-play, 86-yard drive that ended with a 1-yard touchdown run by Foster, who accounted for 66 yards—including 54 on the ground.

Yates went 17 for 35 for 184 yards. Johnson had eight catches for 111 yards.

# Johnson Wagner rallies to win Sony Open

**HONOLULU** (AP)—Johnson Wagner worked so hard in the off-season that he told friends he was going to win early in the year, and he hardly wasted any time.

Wagner played bogey-free over the last 12 holes, a winning recipe on a tough day at Waialae, and closed with a 3-under 67 to pull away from a half-dozen contenders and win the Sony Open on Sunday.

As for that mustache getting so much attention? It's going to stay for at least another week, and maybe until he gets to Augusta National in April. The third win of his career earned him an invitation to the Masters.

Wagner was among six players who had a share of the lead at some point in the final round. He was the only guy to stay there, and wound up with a two-shot win over Carl Pettersson, Sean O'Hair, Harrison Frazar and Charles Howell III.

Coming into the year, Wagner only had seven top 10s in 139 starts on tour, including two wins. He opened the year at Kapalua with a tie for ninth, and then rallied from a two-shot deficit to win the Sony Open.

Frazar had the best chance. He had the outright lead briefly after a birdie at No. 10, then made pars the rest of the way for a 67. Pettersson overcame a double bogey on the second hole and finished with four birdies on the last six holes, also for a 67.

"My first top 10 as an American," said Pettersson, the Swede who became an American citizen in the offseason.

O'Hair had a 30-foot eagle putt on the 18th hole that burned the edge. He had to settle for a 67, while Howell birdied his last hole for 69 to join the group tied for second.

Jeff Maggert and Matt Every, tied for the lead going into the last day, both collapsed early. Every was 4 over through six holes and rallied for a 72. Maggert missed a slew of short putts and shot 74.

Considering all the attention Every received this week—his comments about his marijuana possession arrest two years ago his awkward television interview—he said Saturday night that "I'm just ready to get it over with."

And that he did. He was tied for the lead with Maggert, and quickly spent the day in hopeless pursuit.

AP

Johnson Wagner poses with the trophy after winning the Sony Open golf tournament, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012, in Honolulu. Wagner played bogey-free over the last 12 holes and closed with a 3-under 67.

Every made bogey from the bunker on the first hole, drove into the water at No. 2, three-putted for bogey at No. 4 and three-putted again from 4 feet on the sixth hole for a double bogey.

Maggert was scrambling from the start, too, and while he holed par putts of 8 and 15 feet on the opening two holes, it caught up with him.

They were still in the hunt at the turn—and so was everyone else.

PGA champion Keegan Bradley hit 8-iron into about 6 feet for eagle on the par-5 ninth, creating a five-way tie for the lead along with Maggert, Every, Frazar and Wagner.

Bradley fell back when his long bunker shot sailed 20 yards over the 10th green, turning a birdie chance into a bogey. Frazar hit his easier bunker shot on the 10th to a foot to take the outright lead, only to be joined a short time later by Wagner, who birdied the ninth. Michael Thompson joined them briefly in the lead until a bogey on the 17th.

Wagner was the only player who kept it going.

He started the back nine by driving safely into the front left bunker and holing a 10-footer for birdie to take the outright lead, and he never gave it back. No one else made enough birdies, and Wagner didn't make any mistakes. He seized control for good on the 15th when his approach settled just on the fringe about 15 feet away for birdie and a two-shot lead.

# Source: Yankees sign free agent Hiroki Kuroda

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The New York Yankees made a major push to bolster their starting rotation Friday night, agreeing to terms with right-hander Hiroki Kuroda on a $10 million, one-year contract shortly after acquiring young righty Michael Pineda from the Seattle Mariners.

A person familiar with Kuroda's signing told The Associated Press the deal is contingent on the 36-year-old former Los Angeles Dodgers starter passing a physical. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there has not yet been an announcement. Kuroda's deal also includes performance bonuses, according to the person.

Kuroda was 13-16 with a 3.07 ERA for the Dodgers this year and 41-46 with a 3.45 ERA in four seasons in Los Angeles after a long career in Japan.

Right after being eliminated in the first round of the playoffs, general manager Brian Cashman said his priority for the Yankees this offseason was pitching. But he balked at bidding on the top free agents in what was considered a weak year for starters.

Until Friday, their biggest moves were retaining CC Sabathia before he could opt out of his contract and bringing back Freddy Garcia after a solid 2011.

Along with Pineda, fifth in this year's AL Rookie of the Year voting, the Yankees now have seven starters heading into spring training with A.J. Burnett, Ivan Nova and Phil Hughes also returning.

Nova finished a spot ahead of Pineda in rookie voting and is in line to fill a spot. Hughes might be forced to the bullpen after struggling with injuries and velocity last year.

New York sent power-hitting catcher Jesus Montero, the organization's top prospect, to Seattle for the hard-throwing Pineda, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The 22-year-old Pineda was 6-2 on May 21 with a 2.16 ERA and finished 9-10 with a 3.74 ERA. In 171 innings he gave up just 133 hits and struck out 173.

# Li Na, Azarenka into 2nd round at Australian Open

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (AP)—Li Na returned to the tournament that launched her onto the global stage last year, breezing to a 6-3, 6-1 win over Ksenia Pervak of Kazakhstan on Monday in the first round of the Australian Open.

Li was a trailblazer for China last year, reaching a Grand Slam singles final for the first time before losing to Kim Clijsters in the deciding match of the Australian Open. At the next major, she won the French Open to confirm her place as a genuine star in the world's most populous nation.

"I hope I can go one better this year," Li said of her confidence-boosting buildup that included match wins at the Hopman Cup and Sydney. "So I was happy what I'm doing ... Yeah, I think I just continue."

Fifth-seeded Li could meet Clijsters much early than the final this time, with the pair drawn into the same tough quarter along with No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki. Clijsters and Wozniacki were both due to play first-round matches later Monday.

Third-seeded Victoria Azarenka won 12 straight games to finish off Heather Watson 6-1, 6-0 in 67 minutes in the opening match on center court.

Azarenka, one of six women who can finish atop the rankings depending on results at Melbourne Park, is coming off a victory over Li in the Sydney International final last week.

"Well, the score is easy. To actually play the match, it's never easy, especially for me coming here only Saturday," she said of the win over Watson, adding she was unsettled because she had to get to Melbourne Park so early there was nowhere open to buy her morning coffee.

"First time I actually hit on center court was today in the morning," she said.

The Sydney champion has gone on to reach the Australian Open final six times since 1997, winning twice. Li Na won in Sydney last year but lost the Australian Open final to Clijsters two weeks later.

After her win over Li in Sydney on Friday night, Azarenka is starting to gain a following in Melbourne's Chinese community.

"After beating Li Na, a lot of Chinese people started recognizing me," the 22-year-old from Belarus said about her experience at a Chinese restaurant. "That's a plus."

She'll get more local attention in coming days, with a second-round match against Australian wild-card Casey Dellacqua, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Serbia's Bojana Jovanovski.

For now though, the local attention is on 19-year-old Bernard Tomic, who rallied from two sets down to beat No. 22-seeded Fernando Verdasco 4-6, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-2, 7-5. A five-set win over the 2009 semifinalist will no doubt give Tomic a confidence boost as he attempts to become the first Australian man to win the title since 1976.

"Today wasn't fun, it was torture," said Tomic, who reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals last year. "I don't know how I found the energy to lift, how I did it, but I thank the crowd."

Eighth-seeded Mardy Fish, the highest ranked of the U.S. men, had a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 win over Gilles Muller to advance, as did 2009 U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro, No. 7 Tomas Berdych, No. 10 Nicolas Almagro, No. 18 Feliciano Lopez, No. 21 Stanislas Wawrinka and No. 30 Kevin Anderson.

Of the six women who can reach the top ranking, eighth-ranked Agnieszka Radwanska has the biggest task, having to win the Australian title. She had a battle on her hands just to make the second round, fending off American Bethanie Mattek-Sands 6-7 (10), 6-4, 6-2 in a three-hour match on Show Court 2. Mattek-Sands hit 81 winners but also had 65 unforced errors.

Radwanska remained composed after trading breaks early in the third set, winning five of the last six games.

Other women advancing included No. 20 Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, No. 26-seeded Anabel Medina of Spain and Eleni Daniilidou of Greece beat 41-year-old Kimiko Date-Krumm of Japan 6-3, 6-2.

After an unusually cool build-up to the tournament, players were confronted with a strong breeze Monday and temperatures approaching 86 degrees.

In later matches, Clijsters was due to play Maria Joao Koehler of Portugal and Wozniacki, still searching for her first major title, faced Australia's Anastasia Rodionova.

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are on the same side of the draw for the first time since 2005.

The third-seeded Federer, a four-time Australian Open winner, was set to play on Rod Laver Arena in a Monday night match against Russian qualifier Alexander Kudryavtsev. Second-ranked Nadal had the last match on Hisense Arena—the second show court at Melbourne Park—against Russian Alex Kuznetsov.

Nadal criticized Federer over the weekend for letting other players "burn themselves" by complaining about tour conditions while maintaining his good reputation by rarely making negative comments about tennis.

After telling a pre-tournament news conference Sunday he had no intention of being the frontman for the players' grievances because it has reflected badly on him in the past, Nadal was then critical of 16-time Grand Slam winner Federer in a Spanish-language interview.

Responding to the suggestion that Federer disliked players complaining openly about problems on the tour because it tarnished the image of tennis, Nadal said he took another view.

"No, I totally disagree," he said in comments translated from Spanish, adding that Federer could look like a gentleman by saying nothing negative while the other players "can burn themselves."

# Millsap's double-double leads Jazz past Nuggets

**DENVER** (AP)—Paul Millsap had 26 points and 12 rebounds, Al Jefferson added 18 points and 12 rebounds and the Utah Jazz beat the Denver Nuggets 106-96 on Sunday night.

Gordon Hayward scored 19 points and Devin Harris and Alec Burks added 10 each for the Jazz, winners of seven of their last eight.

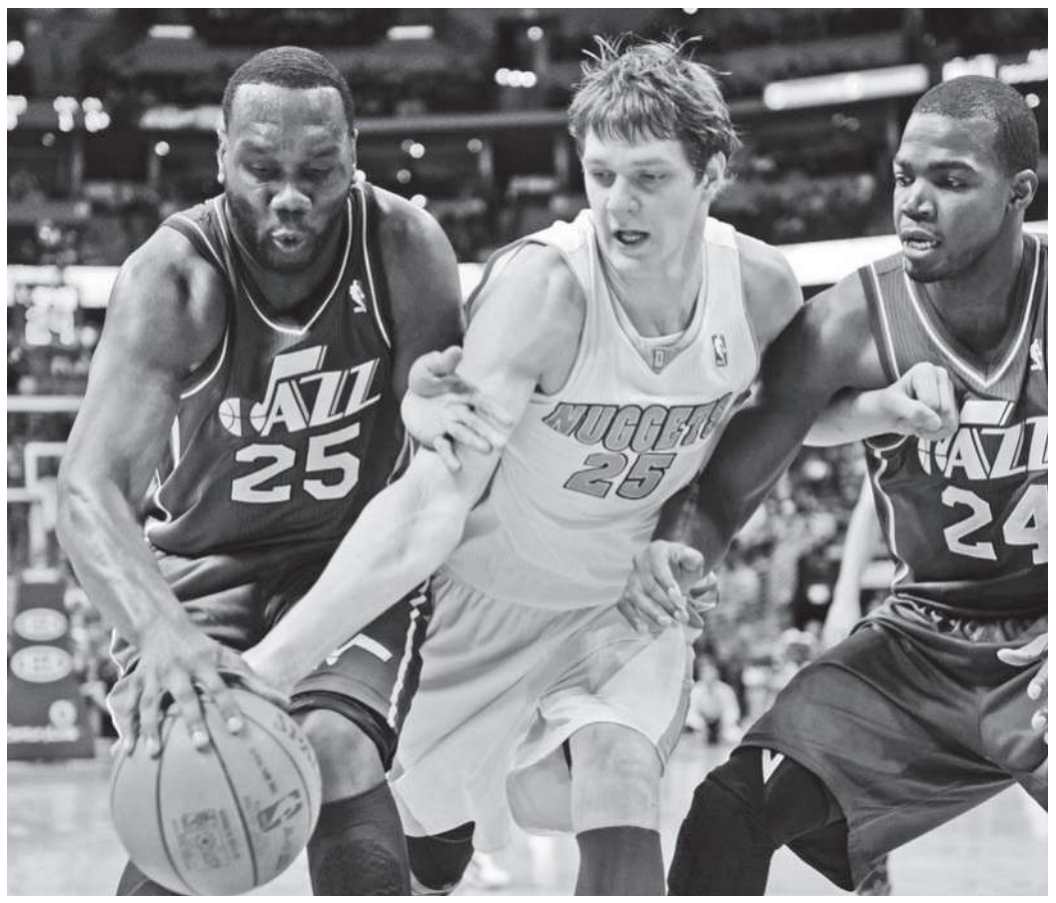
Danilo Gallinari scored 18 points, Nene had 17 and Arron Afflalo 16 for the Nuggets.

The game was close throughout until Millsap got going early in the fourth quarter. He scored 16 points in the period and gave the Jazz control of a close game.

After a 3-pointer by Gallinari cut the lead to 81-79, the Jazz went to Millsap down low. The forward responded by scoring Utah's next 14 to give the Jazz a 95-83 lead midway through the period.

Harris hit a 3-pointer with 3:52 left to make it 98-85, Utah's biggest lead of the game. Denver cut the lead to seven but couldn't get any closer.

The Jazz started fast in the third quarter, scoring the first seven points to take a 55-48 lead. Denver responded with a 10-2 run to go back in front, but Utah countered with six straight points to take the lead for good. The Jazz led 77-73 heading into the fourth.



AP

Utah Jazz center Al Jefferson (25), Denver Nuggets center Timofey Mozgov (25) from Russia and Paul Millsap (24) go after a loose ball during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012, in Denver.

Neither team could take control in the first half. Jefferson had 12 points to help the Jazz take a four-point lead in the first quarter, while Nene had 11 for Denver, which led by as many as five.

The Nuggets used a big advantage in free-throw attempts to keep pace with Utah in the first half. Denver was 12 for 18 from the line while the Jazz were just 5 for 7.

### Spurs 102, Suns 91

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 24 points and 11 rebounds, leading San Antonio to victory over Phoenix and keeping the Spurs perfect at home.

Tony Parker had 17 points and nine assists for the Spurs, who have won all nine of their home games and are 0-4 on the road. The 9-0 start marks their best opening at home since the 2007-08 season when they began 13-0.

Suns veterans Steve Nash and Grant Hill returned from injury. Nash had 20 points and 10 assists, while Hill had just four points.

### Warriors 99, Pistons 91

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, David Lee scored 24 points to lead Golden State to its first road win over the season, downing Detroit.

Monta Ellis added 22—with 17 coming in the second half—for the Warriors, who trailed by four points at halftime but went on an 8-0 run in the third quarter to hit the front and stay there.

The lead was still only five points in the fourth quarter until the visitors put the game away with a 10-0 run.

Greg Monroe had 25 points and eight rebounds for the Pistons.

## MAÑACOP

*From Page 28*

(217, 212, 204, 219, 245, and 214) to go with his 193, 181, and 198 and was awarded the automatic ticket to the finals.

Raymond placed second in the nine-game qualifier with his 1,789 total. He finished strong in the last three games (224, 205, and 225) and earlier tallied 176, 219, 146, 179, 226, and 189 in the first six games to move up to the No. 2 spot. The younger Zapanta then dueled Mañacop in the first round of the stepladder finals for the right to face Ruselle.

"Going up against Raymond, I was not that confident, as he is a tough opponent and he has been playing great bowling the past few months. I just went out there and play without expectations or pressure," Mañacop said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Mañacop went on to pull off an upset over the second-ranked Raymond, 190-187, and faced another daunting task of beating the top-seeded bowler in the field, Ruselle, who needed only one win to avenge his brother's loss and foil Mañacop's title bid.

However, Mañacop was not ready to give up, as he took Game 1, 187-170, to force a deciding Game 2.

"Still, I was not that confident, as I won only by 17 pinfalls and the winner will be decided by total pins after two games, so there was no time to relax" Mañacop said.

The newly crowned King of the Lanes was only relieved when he finally win Game 2 by 39 pinfalls, 197-158 to complete the upset, 384-328.

With the win in last weekend's tournament, Mañacop now joins the elite company of 2004 King of the Lanes Mark Halstead, Richard Leong (2005), Raymond Angeles (2006 and 2008), Jon Hensley (2007), Percy Omechelang (2009), and Robert Talavera (2010).

## MAMIKO

*From Page 28*

ing at Micro Beach at American Memorial Park, the race rises 1,500 feet above sea level following twists and turns through the mountain top (Mt. Tapochao) before returning to the finish line," the MVA press statement stated.

"Not many people can boast of running the mountain range that originates in the Marianas Trench, but runners in the Marianas Coffee Trail Run can," said MVA community projects manager Martin Duenas. "We welcome runners and walkers to take the challenge later this month."

Race participants will cruise through wild coffee plantations built during the Japanese-colonial era on the island and through the young coffee groves of sponsor Marianas Coffee Co.

Entrance fees are only $15 for U12 runners and $30 for 13-and-above if paid on or before Jan. 19. Registration fees after Jan. 19 will have additional $10. Runners will receive a finisher's t-shirt, certificate of participation, and free entry to the awards banquet set for 11:30am after the race at Micro Beach. Prizes will be given away to the Top 3 placers in the men's and women's short and long course races.

For more information, contact Ed Diaz of MVA at ediaz@mymarianas.com or at 664-3210.

## MBT

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have players from last year's U15 team, a mixed of veteran and newcomers, and some from the MISO league. Overall, I am happy with the turnout in the first tryout and we hope students in private schools can join in the next training session," said Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands vice president Elias Rangamar, who conducted drills for the cagebelles last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Spotted at the tryouts were former CNMI Women's National Team members Connie Camacho, Lalaine Pagarao, and Lia Rangamar. Joining them are U15 players Rachel Abrams, Jeralyn and Jeraldyn Castillo, and Kaylani Lebria, and several mainstays of the MHS Lady Dolphins, Kagman Ayuyus, and Saipan Southern High School Lady Rays.

Rangamar led the CNMI team hopefuls to drills, which the BANMI official said were intense, as he hopes to have players who are quick and athletic.

"If you observe our drills, you would see I asked players to dribble, pass, and run hard and quick. These drills should be done in an intense manner if we really wanted to develop their skills and help them keep up with their opponents," Rangamar said.

Players selected will suit up for the U17 team that will compete in the MBT (west division) Saipan will be hosting in May and in the open squad that will travel to Guam in July for another tournament (west and east division teams). On Saipan, the host will play against Guam, Yap, and Palau. Then in Guam, the CNMI bets will also be pitted against the Marshall Islands, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Chuuk.

Rangamar said the second tryout will be held this Saturday at the same time and venue, while the next three weeks of the training session will also include conditioning drills at the Oleai Sports Complex oval.

Meanwhile, BANMI is still looking for coaches who will lead the two CNMI women's teams in MBT this year. Deadline for submission of application form is set for Jan. 23, while interviews will be conducted at the end of the month. For more information about MBT, tryouts, and coaches application form, contact Rangamar at 234-1775 or via email at eliasrangamar@hotmail.com.

## ROC IT

*From Page 28*

eight aces, three kees, and one goal for 23 heavy points. Alpha Q only had 16 heavy points off one ace, four kees, and one xunk.

The Alpha Q-Roc It tiff was the second game played in the opening of the second round. The Teachers and Aim low collided in the first game at the start of the second round with the latter juicing out the former with a come-from-behind win. The Teachers swept the first two sets, 12-11, 13-9. Losing the first two sets and behind by five, 20-25, Aim Low must either win the third set by any margin to force overtime or prevail by six points to steal the win.

J.R. Gechig and Y.J. Nakayama went on to grab the win for Aim Low as the latter canned two goals and the former added one in the team's 18-7 triumph in the deciding third set. The final score after the regulation was 38-32.

Meanwhile, three players managed to earn "Master" title after scoring at least once in Rocball's seven different scoring categories. Just-Do-It's Mathew Lisua and Wilton Laniyo and Alpha Q's Larry Singa have all nailed volley, rally, ace, xunk, jam, kee, and goal points.

The second round of the league continues this week with eight more games and once completed, only the Top 4 teams after the round-robin play will advance to the semifinals. The semis will be a best-of-three affair with the No. 1 team challenging the No. 4 squad and the No. 2 and 3 teams colliding in the other Final Four pairing.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 9 | 3 | .750 | — |
| New York | 6 | 6 | .500 | 3 |
| Boston | 4 | 7 | .364 | 4 1/2 |
| Toronto | 4 | 9 | .308 | 5 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 3 | 10 | .231 | 6 1/2 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 8 | 3 | .727 | — |
| Atlanta | 9 | 4 | .692 | — |
| Miami | 8 | 4 | .667 | 1/2 |
| Charlotte | 3 | 10 | .231 | 6 |
| Washington | 1 | 11 | .083 | 7 1/2 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chicago | 12 | 2 | .857 | — |
| Indiana | 9 | 3 | .750 | 2 |
| Cleveland | 5 | 6 | .455 | 5 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 4 | 7 | .364 | 6 1/2 |
| Detroit | 3 | 10 | .231 | 8 1/2 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Antonio | 9 | 4 | .692 | — |
| Dallas | 8 | 5 | .615 | 1 |
| Memphis | 5 | 6 | .455 | 3 |
| Houston | 5 | 7 | .417 | 3 1/2 |
| New Orleans | 3 | 9 | .250 | 5 1/2 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma City | 11 | 2 | .846 | — |
| Utah | 8 | 4 | .667 | 2 1/2 |
| Denver | 8 | 5 | .615 | 3 |
| Portland | 7 | 5 | .583 | 3 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 4 | 8 | .333 | 6 1/2 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Clippers | 6 | 3 | .667 | 1/2 |
| L.A. Lakers | 9 | 5 | .643 | — |
| Phoenix | 4 | 8 | .333 | 4 |
| Golden State | 4 | 8 | .333 | 4 |
| Sacramento | 4 | 9 | .308 | 4 1/2 |

**Yesterday's Games**

Golden State 99, Detroit 91
Utah 106, Denver 96
San Antonio 102, Phoenix 91

### SONY OPEN SCORES

**HONOLULU** (AP)—Scores Sunday from the Sony Open, playea at the 7,044-yard, par-70 Waialae Country Club Course.

**FINAL ROUND**

| | |
|---|---|
| Johnson Wagner | 68-66-66-67—267 |
| Carl Pettersson | 65-67-70-67—269 |
| Sean O'Hair | 67-67-68-67—269 |
| Harrison Frazar | 67-68-67-67—269 |
| Charles Howell III | 67-67-66-69—269 |
| Michael Thompson | 70-65-68-67—270 |
| Brian Gay | 69-69-65-67—270 |
| D.A. Points | 68-69-64-69—270 |
| Matt Every | 66-64-68-72—270 |
| John Rollins | 70-68-69-64—271 |
| David Hearn | 66-66-70-69—271 |
| Brendon de Jonge | 71-62-67-71—271 |
| Chris DiMarco | 70-65-70-67—272 |
| Brendon Todd | 68-68-68-68—272 |
| Chris Stroud | 68-68-67-69—272 |
| Keegan Bradley | 67-67-68-70—272 |
| Ted Potter, Jr. | 68-68-66-70—272 |
| Jeff Maggert | 69-65-64-74—272 |
| Tadd Fujikawa | 69-66-71-67—273 |
| George McNeill | 69-70-66-68—273 |
| Joe Ogilvie | 71-68-66-68—273 |
| William McGirt | 67-67-70-69—273 |
| Colt Knost | 66-71-69-68—274 |
| Kyle Stanley | 66-68-70-70—274 |
| Will Claxton | 66-69-69-70—274 |
| John Senden | 68-67-68-71—274 |
| Spencer Levin | 67-67-68-72—274 |
| Scott Piercy | 69-68-65-72—274 |
| Stewart Cink | 70-66-71-68—275 |
| Jerry Kelly | 70-66-70-69—275 |
| Rory Sabbatini | 67-71-68-69—275 |
| Bud Cauley | 66-68-70-71—275 |
| Kris Blanks | 68-66-69-72—275 |
| Billy Mayfair | 68-67-68-72—275 |
| Graham DeLaet | 63-72-68-72—275 |
| Sang-Moon Bae | 68-68-66-73—275 |
| Duffy Waldorf | 69-66-66-74—275 |
| Webb Simpson | 66-72-70-68—276 |
| Chris Kirk | 69-70-68-69—276 |
| Gavin Coles | 69-66-71-70—276 |
| Josh Teater | 69-67-70-70—276 |
| J.J. Killeen | 68-69-69-70—276 |
| Corey Pavin | 70-67-68-71—276 |
| K.J. Choi | 65-73-67-71—276 |
| Steve Stricker | 66-69-67-74—276 |
| Vijay Singh | 71-67-71-68—277 |
| Bobby Gates | 68-68-70-71—277 |
| Tom Pernice Jr. | 69-70-67-71—277 |
| Daniel Summerhays | 69-69-67-72—277 |
| Jhonattan Vegas | 67-71-67-72—277 |
| Pat Perez | 66-67-71-73—277 |
| Stephen Ames | 67-68-67-75—277 |
| John Huh | 72-65-70-71—278 |
| Zach Johnson | 72-65-72-70—279 |
| Tim Herron | 68-71-70-70—279 |
| Jeff Overton | 69-70-69-71—279 |
| Jonas Blixt | 72-67-68-72—279 |
| Doug LaBelle II | 66-67-70-76—279 |
| Roberto Castro | 67-69-73-71—280 |
| Koumei Oda | 72-65-70-73—280 |
| Tommy Biershenk | 71-66-70-73—280 |
| Brian Harman | 72-66-69-73—280 |
| Greg Owen | 69-69-69-73—280 |
| Kevin Chappell | 72-67-67-74—280 |
| Ken Duke | 66-69-68-77—280 |
| Seung-yul Noh | 66-72-71-72—281 |
| Erik Compton | 71-68-70-73—282 |
| Harris English | 67-70-70-75—282 |
| Jarrod Lyle | 69-70-70-74—283 |
| Justin Leonard | 71-68-69-76—284 |

*BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS*

# 2012 XTERRA/Tagaman Enticer 1

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 2012 XTERRA/Tagaman Enticer 1 held on Jan. 7 wait for the start of the swim leg in the waters off Paupau Beach.

James Abuy nears completion of the bike leg.

Joshua Berger, left, and Ronald Villafria head to the shore.

Rachel Zuercher removes her goggles as she heads to the swim-bike transition area.

Logan Mister completes the swim leg.

Kaisei Toda heads to the finish line at Paupau Beach.

Florence Antonio makes his turn out of Paupau Beach.

Ben Babauta leaves the parking lot of Paupau Beach for the trail bike leg.

Derek Chambers pedals to the bike-run transition area.

Angie Mister flashes the thumbs up sign as she starts the bike leg.

**Wagner rallies to win Sony Open**

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

**Manning throws 3 TDs, Giants stun Packers**

PAGE 24

# Mañacop takes first King of the Lanes crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The long wait is over for Simon Mañacop.

After missing the championship in the first seven years, Mañacop finally secured the Budweiser King of the Lanes crown, following an upset win in the 2011 seson-ending roll-off last Sunday at the Capitol Bowling Center. The Department of Public Safety police officer took the 2011 King of the Lanes title against siblings Ruselle and Raymond Zapanta, surviving the stepladder finals.

"Finally I got this one. I've been winning in the monthly tournaments several times, but not in the annual event for the past seven years," said Mañacop, who topped the March, July, and October roll-offs last year.

"I got lucky yesterday despite not playing for about a month. I was not able to compete during the holidays and only returned to the bowling alley last Thursday. It feels great that I was able to beat Russell and Raymond, who were really consistent in the elimination round," he added.

Mañacop was the last one to make it to the stepladder finals as he finished third in the nine-game qualifying roll-off. He collected 1,776 pinfalls in nine games for an average of 197.33. The police officer knocked down more than 200 pins three times (210, 223, and 224) to add with his 192, 182, 193, 175, 196, and 181.

Ruselle was the first to advance to the stepladder finals, as he came out smoking in the qualifier, posting an average of 209.22 pinfalls after earning 1,883 pinfalls. He was the lone bowler in the 13-man field to average at least 200 pinfalls in the qualifier. Ruselle recorded 200-plus pinfalls in six games

See MAÑACOP on Page 26

Simon Mañacop smiles after pulling off an upset in the 2011 Budweiser King of the Lanes tournament last Sunday at the Capitol Bowling Center.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Roc It unbeaten in 2nd round of Rocball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Only one team remained unscathed in the second round of the 2011 Rocball Fall League after seven games were completed last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Roc It holds an undefeated 2-0 record in the six-team field to boost its chances in the semifinals. It leads against Aim Low, which holds a 2-1 record, while Give-A-Hoot and the Teachers share the third spot after owning similar 1-1 slates. Just-Do-It is at fourth with a 1-2 card, while Alpha Q is at the bottom of the team standings with a 0-2 card.

Roc It notched its first win in the second round against Alpha Q, 41-27. Roc It prevailed in all three sets for the juiced-out victory. It took the first set by six points, 14-8, had a winning margin of five in the second, 13-8, and then eked out a three-point triumph in the third, 14-11.

Against Alpha Q, Roc It, which gained its second win over Just-Do-It, collected

See ROC IT on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Runners head to the course during the 3rd Marianas Coffee Trail Run in January 2010.

# Mamiko seeks third straight win in Coffee Trail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With the Marianas Coffee Trail Run back this year, Mamiko Oshima-Berger will have a chance to clinch her third win in a row in the off-road race.

The 5th Marianas Coffee Trail Run will be held on Jan. 28 with Saipan runners to get a challenge from a group of Japanese expected to come over and try the signature event, which Oshima-Berger ruled twice in 2010.

In January 2010, Oshima-Berger finished the 10-kilometer course in 1:37:33 to place sixth overall and first in the women's division. Then nine months later, Oshima-Berger joined the much longer course (30-kilometer) and clocked in at 3:39:59 to place fourth overall and first in her division.

"I would love to defend my title and I will do the race with my two dogs, they are very good runners," said Oshima-Berger, who has been training for a long list of 2012 race for the past seven months. "I am running with Mieko and I think she will also do the Coffee Trail race. Next week's race will be my first warm-up for Saipan Marathon and hopefully I have good results."

Oshima-Berger added that she does not have a target time for the Jan. 28 race, as she believes there will be some changes in the course and it will be a much shorter event compared to the October 2010 event.

Marianas Visitors Authority, which is organizing the event through the help of KFC Triathlon Club Japan, TEAM PDI, and Northern Marianas Athletics, said this year's Coffee Trail will have 10K short course and a longer course through some of Saipan's most challenging and scenic terrain.

"The island is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the eastern coast and the Philippine Sea on the west. Beginning and finish-

See MAMIKO on Page 26

Mamiko Oshima-Berger celebrates at the finish line during the 3rd Marianas Coffee Trail Run in January 2010.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands vice president Elias Rangamar instructs female players to do drills during the first tryout for CNMI teams last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

# MBT tryout draws good turnout

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

About 20 players showed up for the first tryout for the CNMI teams that will be competing in Micronesian Basketball Tournament this year.

"We had a good turnout. We

See MBT on Page 26